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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BOSTON

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NOVEMBER



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PRIZE WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER.

Howard Markle Hoke, First Prize.
Harriet Walton Seaver, Second Prize.
George H. Smith, Third Prize.
Col. Prentiss Ingraham, Fourth Prize.
Margaret Spencer, Fifth Prize.

A JUST POISE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARKLE HOKE.

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ISUPPOSE you know," said Daniel Hazlitt, the junior partner of Bromwood & Company, when Alfred Crown, head of the silk department, came to the private office in response to his summons, "that we have a strong rival in the new dry goods firm across the street." "I have good cause to know it," Crown replied, "for they are pushing my department hard just now on a line of silks. But it is only a question of time until the people find out the poor value of the stuff they are buying over there. Their methods can't succeed in the long run."

"They are succeeding annoyingly well just now," said Hazlitt. "Our old time methods are having a rather severe trial."

Crown barely hid his surprise, and glanced into the adjoining office to see if Mr. Bromwood, the senior partner, was within hearing. He was not, and Hazlitt seemed safe in expressing what the young man considered treasonable opinions.

"I think our record for fair dealing, Mr. Hazlitt, will stand more than the rivalry of the new firm," he said.

"It may prove a costly experiment, though, to stick to the old methods. I have sent for you to suggest that you devise some plan to head off our competitor in this silk matter. I happen to know that one of the new firm's employees can be approached and that an adroit man can induce him to give the name of the manufacturer of this popular line of silks and the prices the firm pays. It seems they bought the entire output for last year. Now, Mr. Crown, I would like you to arrange matters so that we can underbid the firm over there for the next year's production of this line of silk."

Crown did not try to hide his surprise, but the junior partner was unmoved by it. The young man got up from his chair and took one of Bromwood & Company's letter heads from Hazlitt's desk. At the top was a device representing a hand holding a pair of scales, exactly balancing a quantity of goods and a stack of coin. Over it was printed "A Just Poise." This had been the motto of the house ever since Mr. Bromwood's father had modestly started the business many years before.

"Mr. Hazlitt," said Crown, "don't you think this firm will have to adopt a new device when it resorts to such methods for getting trade?"

"Do you presume to dictate what the policy of the house is to be?" demanded Hazlitt.

"I have no such intention, sir, but I do wish to say that I cannot treat with this employee in the manner you suggest, and I could not conscientiously ask my clerks to recommend that silk to our customers."

"I must tell you, Mr. Crown, that there is to be a change here. We must adopt more aggressive methods, and we must have employees in sympathy with them."

"A departure from the days of the just poise, sir?"

"As an employee that is not a question for you. The point you are to decide is whether you will do as I suggest."

"I have decided that point. I cannot do so."

"I see that my proposal has taken you by surprise, and I believe you will see it in a different light by morning. Come in then with your answer."

"I will think it over, but my answer will be the same."

He gave a last look into Mr. Bromwood's office as he went out, but the senior partner had not come in. Crown had not dared to ask Hazlitt if Mr. Bromwood was a party to the new policy, for it had been understood that the junior partner was managing the business.

This matter had come to Crown at a very critical time. His marriage had been announced for the next month. If he should not do as Hazlitt proposed he was almost certain to be replaced by a man who would. Ought he to risk Alice's happiness on account of what some of his business friends would term an old time conscience? It needed but a few moments of consideration to see that Alice herself was the

one to decide a question bearing upon her own future; so he told her all about it in the evening.

"I am not surprised, Alfred," she said. "I heard only a few days ago that Bromwood & Company are to be more aggressive, and that Mr. Hazlitt intends to get rid of some of the old employees. It is a part of his plan, I understand, to put Mr. Zandon in your place."

"Parker Zandon!"

"Yes."

"Then good bye to the days of the just poise."

"It looks so, Alfred. Mr. Zandon's interests are being urged upon the firm by some active business men of the city; but I want you to tell Mr. Hazlitt tomorrow morning that you will not do as he asks."

"But suppose I am dismissed, and our marriage announced for next month?"

"We are both strong enough to bear disappointment, if it must come, Alfred."

On his way home Crown met Zandon, who walked some distance with him.

"I'm glad to talk to you, Crown," he said, "for I must tell you that a new era is just ahead of Bromwood & Company. Hazlitt is disgusted with the old fogey methods and is going to push us to the front. I knew five years ago, when he became junior partner, that he would make an active, up-to-date business house of the ancient affair. He had to wait awhile, you know, but he is now ready to cut loose from the back number methods."

"Do you think we ought to risk the reputation that has been won on the principle of the just poise?"

"Oh, that pair of scales will have to go up to the loft with all the other grandfather remnants and ideas. If I were Hazlitt I'd have a new letterhead mighty quick."

"One of a pair of scales with the money end down, Zandon."

"Well, it's money that kicks the beam anyhow, Crown. We're all after money down there—old Bromwood as much as anyone—and I don't mind telling you, in strict confidence, that I am to be a factor in the new policy. I've had the best business influence of the city working in my favor for months. Good night."

Crown stood some minutes considering the advisability of going out to consult Mr. Bromwood, but decided to wait until Hazlitt's plan should be fully disclosed, knowing that, in the event of a dismissal, he would have the right of appeal to the senior partner.

When he reached the store next morning some workmen were rigging a pulley and ropes to a beam that projected from the roof. The head of the ribbon department was watching them and Crown asked him what was to be done.

"They are going to take down that old device."

He referred to a large wooden representation of the hand holding balanced scales. Without waiting to hear any more Crown went to his place and took up his duties. He felt that his connection with the old and honored house was nearly at an end, for Hazlitt would not likely go so far as to take down the ancient sign without Mr. Bromwood's approval. The summons from the junior partner soon came and he responded promptly.

"Good morning, Mr. Crown," Hazlitt pleasantly greeted him. "Please take a chair and wait a few moments. I have sent for Mr. Zandon also."

While he waited Mr. Bromwood came into his own room and sat down at his desk. Hazlitt was not disturbed, nor did he show any disposition to postpone the interview. For the hundredth time Crown went over the reasons that induced him to decline his proposal. He could not see any way to justify an acceptance or to convince himself that the long respected house had not come upon evil days.

While he sat thinking Henry Robertson came into Mr. Bromwood's office. He was a wealthy banker and had been a boyhood and business friend of Crown's father. He had continued this friendship with the young man in a distant way, but had shown no interest in his progress beyond an occasional inquiry. He was reputed to be heartily in favor of modern methods and of pushing business to the utmost limit.

Crown saw that a matter of some importance was to be transacted, and, as Zandon had been sent for, it was likely that Robertson was the man whose influence he had secured. He had never thought of asking outside help to advance his position, and he might have had Mr. Robertson's for the asking. It occurred to him that perhaps he had put too much dependence upon faithfulness to his duties and loyalty to the principles of the house.

Zandon soon made his appearance with an air of confidence that depressed Crown. Hazlitt greeted him pleasantly; then, stepping to the communicating door, requested Mr. Bromwood to come into his office. Bidding Mr. Robertson sit still, the senior partner walked out, spoke to Zandon and Crown in his customary business manner, and sat down.

"Mr. Bromwood," Hazlitt began, "I have asked these two young men to come here to give their views regarding the move I explained to you yesterday. I am glad you can hear them."

"I shall listen with interest," Mr. Bromwood replied, briskly.

"Now, Mr. Zandon," said the junior partner, "have you decided upon any way to bring about the result I detailed to you yesterday?"

"Yes, sir, I think I have a plan that will completely outwit our rivals across the street. I have already invited the employee you spoke of to lunch with me today, and I know a way to get a hold on him so that he can't refuse to give me the name of that silk manufacturer and the price his firm paid for the output of last year. As soon as I have this information I'll be ready to start in an hour for the manufactory with your bid for the output of the next year. In addition, I have thought of this, and I suggest it for your consideration. Why couldn't we agree to pay this man a certain sum every year to stay over there and give us the inside of the firm's methods and plans? We could often forestall them on many lines of goods."

"What is your opinion of that plan, Mr. Bromwood?" asked Hazlitt, turning to the senior partner.

"A very well laid business manoeuvre," was the reply, "if it will succeed."

"Oh, it will succeed," cried Zandon, proudly, "I'll make it succeed."

"You think, do you, that this line of silk would be an advantage to have on our counters?" Mr. Bromwood asked.

"Oh, well," said Zandon, with a shrug of his shoulders and a sly laugh, "the silk is not what it looks to be, but it catches the customers every time. It's a first class seller and money maker, and that's what we're all in business for, I take it."

"Mr. Crown," said Hazlitt, "you see I've given Mr. Zandon an equal chance with yourself. What plan have you to suggest?"

He leaned expectantly across his desk and Mr. Bromwood, re-adjusting his glasses, looked on with the critical attention of a shrewd business man. Crown rose from his chair, and walking slowly over to the junior partner's desk, said:

"I told you yesterday, Mr. Hazlitt, that I could not perform such a service for this house, and I have not changed my mind."

"Do you mean us to understand, Mr. Crown, that you do not feel competent to deal with our rivals?" Mr. Bromwood asked.

"No, sir, I do not wish you to understand that. What I mean is that I am not able—I should say, willing—to deal with them in the way Mr. Zandon proposes. If I have any suggestion to make, it is to keep the stuff they sell for silk as far from our counters as possible, and continue to give our customers that value for their money that has sustained the motto of the just poise."

"Then you have nothing better to propose than the old time way of doing business?" asked Hazlitt.

"You forget, don't you, Mr. Crown, that we are living in aggressive times?" Mr. Bromwood supplemented.

"No, sir, I do not. We can be aggressive without being dishonest, sir. Catchy methods may win for awhile, but I know that when the people of this city want to buy something good, sir, they come to Bromwood & Company. The best way we can fight that firm over there is to keep that old wooden device in plain sight over our door; but now that it is being torn down I have no hope that my plan will commend itself to you."

"Very well, then," said Mr. Bromwood, rising abruptly, as was his habit when a question was finally settled, "you will act according to our agreement, Mr. Hazlitt."

He went into his office. Hazlitt turned to Zandon and said:

"Mr. Zandon, I will send for you later in the day. I have something to say to Mr. Crown."

The young fellow went out triumphantly. Hazlitt rose from his desk, took up a folded paper, and came around to Crown.

"Give me the pleasure of shaking hands with you as our next junior partner, Mr. Crown," he said, with a smile. "Mr. Robertson is here ready to arrange the money side of the transaction for you. By the way, that old wooden device is being taken down, but only to be repainted and put back fresher and more securely than ever. Our business is to be carried on along the very lines you have so well mapped out this morning. But come into the other office; Mr. Bromwood and Mr. Robertson are waiting for us."

IS one continued hustle nowadays to get even within sight of the hill of fame, when so many clever fellows are on the alert for something by which to distinguish themselves and entitle them to a place even at the foot of the ladder among the crowd aspiring for the title of journalist.

And it does seem hard luck when a college bred man with the ordinary amount of ambi-

tion lacks the essential push and so drops out of the rush with the sigh "game not worth the candle" and sinks into the oblivion of an ordinary newspaper-reporter's life. But surely enough one thing, however unimportant in itself, leads to another, and this unsolved mystery concerning the disappearance of Lady Pierpont's three rubies offered me the long looked for opportunity of making a name for myself, perchance at the same time a "scop" for my paper.

The events connected with the mysterious disappearance were these: While traveling in a private car from New York to San Francisco, between eight and nine o'clock on the evening after leaving the Metropolis, three perfect rubies of infinite value set in a heavy gold bracelet had been lost. The fact that none but the porter, maid, a Boston terrier (which Lady Pierpont had in charge for a friend) and the lady herself had entered the car was alone enough to rest suspicion on the two servants. The bracelet was found near the door of the car, where Lady Pierpont remembered having removed her jacket, but the stones had been dexterously taken from their settings.

The train was stopped, the car side-tracked and there they remained for twenty-four hours, until detectives of note had arrived and the maid and porter were placed under arrest.

Among other reporters I was sent out by the New York T—, but the affair seemed so unique,—not for a moment had either suspect left the car and yet not a trace of the jewels was to be found,—that I obtained permission of Lady Pierpont to remain on the spot and assist if possible in locating the missing stones. She was extremely irritable and to add to her unpleasant frame of mind, the dog had early that morning wandered off from the car and had not returned. This however, did not annoy her as it might, were she fond of dogs or had she not agreed to transport this one at the "owner's risk." The weather was extremely hot and whether it was our location or what we could not tell, but a most pungent odor arose toward night which stayed by us the rest of the trip, and the fact that the porter was the only one who did not apparently notice this made me regard him as too big a fool to be able to conceal jewels had he had wits enough to steal them; so I dismissed him from my suspicions and turned my attention to the maid.

And it was with no regret on my part when the officials declared Jim the guilty party and at once took him to the nearest jail. I congratulated myself on being left an open field—for it had been proven Jim hadn't the jewels on his person—where then were they but on the car?

We attached ourselves to the next train and were en route for San Francisco. But each day as the search became more fruitless the odor became more offensive. And each night about the same time I was awakened by sounds coming from the upper end of the car. I spoke c. this to Lady Pierpont, but she was a heavy sleeper and saw no possible connection between this and her missing stones, so directly dismissed it from her mind.

However, I was determined to find out what this meant, and that night I crept from my

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partment and concealed myself none too soon behind a portiere at the end of the car. Directly I heard the same sounds and some one chopping ice. Now what could the maid—for she was the only other person beside myself and her mistress in the car—what could she possibly want of ice at that precise time every night? and then the picking ceased and I heard a board crack almost behind me. In less time than it takes to tell, the whole apartment was filled with a most nauseating odor. And as I curiously passed out of my concealment I ran against the maid who, as surprised as I, rushed past me in an endeavor to escape me, but returned almost immediately, pushing a small bit of paper into my hand and breathlessly explaining that the porter, Jim, had given it to her on the eve of his arrest. It was too dark to read and as I slipped it into my pocket till I could get my bearings and strike a light the most unexpected of all things happened—the train lurched and jumped the track and I found myself deposited, with scarce a scratch save a bruised head and a twisted ankle, in a ditch.

To tell how I passed the next few hours would only be to dwell on the suffering of the more unfortunate than I, and not coming any nearer the solution of the mystery. Both Lady Pierpont and maid, among many others, were killed outright. And as I watched the wrecking hands here and there I pulled from my pocket a crumpled scrap of paper. Then the whole scene came back to me. The missing rubies and that sickening odor—and I read:

"I fed the dog the stones wrapped in pieces of meat. Dog died. Keep ice on body in corner of car so it won't smell strong. I'll get word to you later and divide."

A short time later with the assistance of the pungent odor, I discovered the dog's remains and after performing an intensely disagreeable operation extracted the jewels, of which I am the undisputed possessor today. And though they are valued up in the thousands each, not for worlds would I turn them into their cash value, for from that time all my ventures have been successful, due, I confidently believe to the talismanic power of the three rubies.

The Evil Eye of Lieutenant Melendy.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE H. SMITH.

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Among the things which the dispatches from Manila did not report were the peculiar circumstances connected with the case of Lieutenant James Melendy. This officer was in charge of a scouting party sent out from the town of Unatonga. The party was ambushed by a force of Tagalog natives, and several of the Americans were killed. Lieutenant Melendy and one private were taken prisoners. The remainder of the scouting party escaped, eventually getting back to Unatonga.

When the return of the last of the stragglers to camp made it certain that the lieutenant and one of his men were in the hands of the natives, the officer in command at Unatonga began energetic efforts to secure their release. A squad of men was sent out from the American outposts towards the Tagalog stronghold. At a suitable distance they were halted, and one man advanced alone, displaying a white handkerchief tied to the bayonet of the gun he carried. This man stopped a hundred yards in advance of his companions, and displayed his signal. After a considerable delay he was joined by a messenger from within the native lines. The result of these negotiations was the bringing of two letters to the American commander. One of these letters was from the natives, setting forth, in the Spanish language, that they would exchange Lieutenant Melendy for a young Tagalog leader named Arolan, who had been captured by the Americans some time before and kept in confinement at Unatonga. With this letter was a note from Lieutenant Melendy himself, begging that his rescue be hastened.

"Private Collins, who was captured with me, has already died of fever," he wrote, "and unless I can be exchanged I almost hope that I may go as he did. I am kept under a shed, tied by the legs to two posts, and never left without a guard. At night the Tagalogs, men and women both, gather around me and flourishing their *barongs*, tell what they are going to do with me if Arolan is not returned."

"Do not try to rescue me by force. My guards have orders to kill me rather than have me recaptured."

Two days after these letters were received, Unatonga answers to them we

HAVE WOMEN SOULS?

"If women have no souls to save—as some sects teach—is there to be no salvation for their bodies?"

"Even when Nature, who does make horrible blunders, has decreed that motherhood shall be life-long invalidism and misery, if not death-dealing, still most women more or less cheerfully do their duty in the sphere in which man is willing they should live."—THE GENTLEMAN.

The writer in *The Gentlewoman* is only voicing a widely accepted theory in the statement that "Nature has decreed that motherhood shall be life-long invalidism and misery, if not



GRACE DARLING A FINE EXAMPLE OF THE SOULLESS (!) WOMAN.

death-dealing." But it is a bold challenge to Nature, to say that "she makes horrible blunders."

"Are God and Nature then at strife, that Nature lends such evil dreams?"

If there be one woman in all the world who has found the result of maternity to be not "life-long invalidism and misery" but life-long happiness and health, then that woman takes up the challenge thrown down to Nature. But more than this. If there were but one woman who had been emancipated from the sufferings of her sex, who had been led out of that darkened chamber to which each month condemned her, who had been rescued from invalidism and misery as a consequence of motherhood, then that one woman stands as type of the possibility of health to every other woman.

AN ARMY OF WOMEN.

There is an army of 500,000 women, representing in their ranks every form and place of female weakness, so-called, from mere irregularity in the young woman to chronic disease of the womb involving complications that have kept the victim practically bed-ridden for ten or even fifteen years, and every one of these has been perfectly and permanently cured. Expressions such as "I am a new woman!" "I never knew what it was to live before!" "I am gone back again to be robust and rosy-cheeked as in youth!" "I have never been able to save a child before; now I have the brightest of healthy babies!" "I scarcely suffered at all with my last child; it was wonderful,"—such expressions seem in the thousands of letters received from grateful women in the past thirty years.

Mrs. Carrie B. Donner, of Dayton, Green Co., Wis., writes: "I can highly recommend Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription—having taken it for nine months previous to confinement. I suffered scarcely any compared with what I had at other times."

Mrs. Annie Blacker, 629 Catherine Street, Syracuse, N. Y., writes: "Your medicines have done wonders for me. For years my health was very poor. I had four miscarriages, but since taking Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and 'Golden Medical Discovery' I have much better health, and now I have a fine healthy baby."

And who has wrought this deliverance for women? What means have brought about these many cures?

The work has been done by Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y. The general means has been the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, supplemented by his special advice where special difficulties had to be overcome.

The endeavor to do what has never been done before with a proprietary medicine, adapt it to individual needs and peculiar cases, was the origin of the offer of free consultation by letter with Dr. Pierce.

The medical profession has only a few leaders. The mass of the doctors are followers. They cannot originate. They follow somebody else in method of treatment and in the use of medicines. For this reason they cannot make allowance for the variations of individual temperaments which are so important a feature in the treatment of diseases of women. They treat all alike. Delicate, nervous,

FINELY FIBERED WOMEN are treated without any consideration of the difference between them and the more coarsely organized of their sex. And in this way women are often treated for the wrong disease. When the womb is affected various nervous possible, even insanity. Un-
tioners treat the patient for the

disorder, not appreciating the real cause.

J. S. Carlisle, Esq., of Manchester, Coffee Co., Tenn., writes: "I have been using your medicines for the last sixteen or eighteen years in my Poor House. I am superintendent of the Coffee County Poor House and Asylum combined. Your 'Favorite Prescription,' 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and 'Pleasant Pellets,' are the best medicines for the diseases for which they are recommended that I ever used. They saved my wife's life at the time of 'change of life.' I also cured the worst case of lunacy that we ever had with your 'Favorite Prescription.' The case had been under the doctor's care for three years. I used your medicine about seven or eight months and the patient was as well as she ever was in her life. This was nine years ago, and she is still in good health."

Dr. Pierce is a leader, not a follower. He has devoted more than thirty years to the treatment and cure of diseases of women. He is head of one of the most important medical institutions in the land. People come from all over the country to be treated at the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, at Buffalo, N. Y. To meet these demands, Dr. Pierce has gathered about him a medical staff of nearly a score of physicians. These men are all specialists in some branch of medicine or surgery.

A GREAT OFFER FREE.

You are offered a free consultation by letter with Dr. Pierce, and this means that you are offered free the best medical skill in the country. You could get high class medical service and advice in many another institution. But high class is high price, and few people can spare the money to consult the skilled specialists of great institutions.

If these facts are as stated, if the claims above made are true, there is no reason for another year of suffering for you. Are you a sufferer every month? You can be cured. Do you suffer daily with aching back, bearing-down pains, the miseries of mind and body which



THE SOULLESS (!) WOMAN AT SANTIAGO.

follow diseases of the womb and other organs of generation? You can be cured. There are only two chances in a hundred that your cure will not be perfect and life-lasting. There are ninety-eight chances in a hundred that you will enter on a new period of existence.

All this can come to you at very little cost, without any of the unpleasant questionings, the offensive examinations and obnoxious local treatments deemed necessary by many local practitioners. You can begin with "Favorite Prescription," today; or you can write a letter to Dr. Pierce and make a plain statement of your case. In either case you take the first step to health when you begin Dr. Pierce's treatment. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y.

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the same way that the first communications had been sent. The reply to the Tagalog chief stated in Spanish that the representative of the American Government at Unatonga required more time to consider the matter of an ex-

change of prisoners.

The letter to Lieutenant Melendy was in English, which none of the Tagalogs could read. "Arolan has suddenly and most mysteriously disappeared," it said. "Until your letter was received we supposed he had escaped and returned home. Since we heard from you that he is not there we have had the town searched for him repeatedly, but to no purpose. Try and stave off the Tagalogs with some excuse, while we keep up the hunt; and don't lose courage."

That evening the natives gathered around the prisoner's shed, as usual, as the visitors to a park would have flocked to the cage of some strange new beast. Melendy wondered gloomily how long he could "stave them off," when he happened to see a man in the crowd holding a slim Malay game cock under each arm. There came to his mind an account which he had read in a current book of Philippine travels, of how the writer had mystified a group of Filipinos by hypnotizing a native fowl. Every farmer's boy knows the trick.

"Give me that bird!" he said in Spanish. "I want to make *anting, anting*."

Anting, anting is a Philippine term which is applied to the most powerful charms of which the natives can conceive.

The owner of the birds demurred, at first, but finally handed over one of them. The crowd pressed closer, curious, but half frightened. The officer took the wild-eyed, scared fowl, and tucking the bird's head beneath one wing swung him in a circle five times through the air. When he laid him down upon the ground the fowl might have been dead, for any sign of life he showed.

The natives looked on silently, but when Melendy reached for the other bird they shrank back to give him room. Slowly he swung this fowl like the other, the motions of his hand throwing great shadowy circles in the firelight. He stooped to put the dazed bird down, when—

"Arolan! Arolan!" A woman's voice cried out the name, as if in deadly fear, adding, a moment later, "Help him! Help him! Help him!"

It was the daughter of the Tagalog chief, sunk down on her knees among the other women, close by the posts to which the officer was hobbled. The woman's wide open eyes were full of fear, but it was not a fear of anything she saw close at hand. Her eyes were looking beyond the shed, and the fire, and the frightened natives, out through the darkness to something which they saw far away.

Lieutenant Melendy had been a medical student before the company of the National Guard to which he belonged had been called out, and he knew enough of hypnotism to recognize its subject.

"Where is Arolan?" he demanded of the woman, losing not a moment of time while her trance should last.

"He is in an old house. Canes wave around it. He is wounded and dying. I see him lying on the floor, and hear him groan for water. O help—" The voice grew fainter, and stopped. The speaker struggled to her feet and gazed about her curiously, wondering why her companions looked at her so strangely. All shrank back from the shed, and hurried away in the darkness to their thatched huts to talk in whispers of the white man's evil eye.

But the prisoner, before he slept that night, wrote by the light of the watch fire a letter to the American commander, giving a full and careful account of what had happened.

"Perhaps this will not amount to anything," he wrote. "What happened may have been merely the hysterics of a half-wild girl. It is possible, though, that this was one of those rare instances which come to hint to us the existence of powers or forces which are not yet understood. It may mean much to me, or nothing."

The next morning it was not easy to find a messenger to carry this letter to Unatonga. The natives were divided between fear of what would happen to them if they took it, and fear of what the wonder-working writer of the epistle might do to them if they refused to take it. Finally a Tagalog warrior who was the possessor of an unusually powerful *anting, anting* consented to go.

Before the courier started the lieutenant added postscript. "I find my performance of last night," he wrote, "has gained for me the reputation of having an evil eye. It is said I have bewitched the chief's daughter, who, it seems, was to marry Arolan. Her father, the Tagalog chief, is not here now, but unless Arolan shows up before the chief returns it is easy to see my finish. I could wish it had been different, but it is all for the same thing in the end."

There followed some messages to be sent back to his home in the States; one to his father, and one to a young woman who was reading eagerly each day's Philippine dispatches in the daily papers. It was hard for the lieutenant to write the last few sentences, but not half so hard as it was for his commander to read them.

Three days later the Tagalogs were gathered about the prison shed to see the American officer die. The native chief had come home. To him, trying the keenness of his *barong*'s edge, a sentinel came running with word that

*Dean Worcester's.

COMFORT.

party of white soldiers were come in sight. "They are waving a white flag," the man said, adding, "they are hurrying up the hill, far this side the usual meeting place."

"Send men to meet them," the chief said, and waited.

Arolan was found. "The Tagalog girl saw him, all right enough," the message to Melendy said. "We found him in an abandoned native hut, in the cane brake outside the town. He had almost gone free, one night, but a picket saw some one creeping towards the brake, and fired, having no thought it was any one but a scout, and not knowing in the darkness, afterwards, if his shot had hit its mark. Arolan, wounded, was able to drag himself into this hut and lie there. Although a young man, and strong, it is a miracle he was not dead before we found him. I see no reason now why he should not recover, though, and write his chief with this that if you are still alive he shall be sent home as soon as able. God grant this may not be too late."

A week later two parties met half way between the American and Filipino lines, and the convalescent Arolan, borne upon a litter, was exchanged for Lieutenant Melendy. Before the Tagalog party passed out of sight, the lieutenant, looking back, saw a young woman run down the hill to meet it. When she reached the litter she knelt beside it and clasped the wounded man upon it in her arms.

The Eagles on the Shoulder Straps.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY COL. PRENTISS INGRAHAM.

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CAN a woman love two men at the same time, honestly truly love two, and feel indifferent as to which should call her wife?

"It is a question that has fairly broken its way within my heart, and within the hour.

"Only a short time since Carroll Ames held my hand, and asked me to be his wife. I loved him, I still love him, and the answer was almost given, when suddenly before me appeared Frank Farral, coming, I knew, to ask me the same question.

"I did not answer the one as I had intended;

I could not, so hastily bade him wait until he returned from Cuba with an eagle on his epaulette, and slipped my ring upon his finger.

"Poor fellow! He mentioned something about how he would win the eagles or lose his life, and hastened away as Frank Farral entered the room. I knew he had taken my answer as a pledge.

"Then came the story of love, the same request from Frank Farral to become his wife, and again a 'Yes' quivered on my lips, when, was it prophetic, a shadow fell between us and it seemed that I saw the outstretched hand of Carroll Ames. Thus I gave the response as to the other one, and placed my bracelet upon his wrist.

"He too took it as an acceptance, and tomorrow they sail to Cuba, both officers in the same regiment, both splendid noble fellows; and which one do I love? Some way my heart tells me that I will marry one of these men, or—"

The beautiful girl, for she was beautiful in face and form, stood by the window where she had parted first with one, then with the other of the two young officers, rivals with many others in the pursuit of her hand and heart, the former carrying a fortune with it.

A brilliant society butterfly, never before had she been forced to analyze her own heart as on that day, and as the twilight gathered about her, she could not but feel that she had acted both the tyrant and the coward, for had she not sent two brave men forth to win her by the price she had set upon her love—the eagle upon their shoulder straps.

She was a coquette; she played with the hearts of honest men for the pleasure it gave her; but now in the gloaming the shadows gathering without seemed creeping into her heart until, with a shudder she walked rapidly to another room where the bright gas-light dispelled the gloom, and from her lips came the bold words:

"If I have done wrong I accept my fate."

Two men, splendid specimens of perfect manhood, white-faced, fearless, determined, awaiting in line of battle for the word that must soon come, to storm the Spanish stronghold beyond the dense foliage in which their regiment lay concealed, crouching before the charge that must end in the death grapple.

One of these two officers was Carroll Ames, the other Frank Farral, both of them that day in command of a battalion. The two were beloved by their brother officers, idolized by their men, and it was generally prophesied that they would fight their way rapidly up the difficult ladder of promotion, or find a grave in Cuba.

They had been the best of friends until a woman's hand came between them, and friendship is but a name where love rules heart and brain. Each man had left home believing he had won the love of a true woman, though she had not then told them in so many words. Each man felt a sympathy then, as *Death's* dark wing was hovering over them, for the other, and Frank Farral stepped quickly to where his one time friend stood some distance

apart from all others, extended his hand and said earnestly:

"Carroll, old fellow, let us be friends now, for frankly I confess had you won the love of Lucille Bruce instead of I, my hand would have been offered in warmest congratulation."

Carroll Ames regarded him with a look of intense surprise mingled with indignation, and the silence that followed was at last broken by the low uttered words:

"Had I won? Great God, man! I did win, you lost!"

"Do you mean to assert that you won the love of Lucille Bruce who is pledged to me?"

"I mean that as far as woman can do so without words, Frank Farral, Lucille Bruce pledged herself to me, told me to come back to her wearing a Colonel's rank on my shoulder straps—and see I wear her ring and—"

"Say no more, Ames, for I believe you, and let me add that to-day will be the one for you to win your eagles—or death."

"We have got to charge a steep rugged hill ahead of us, upon which the Spaniards are entrenched, and orders are simply to take it."

"I am aware of what our orders are and what my duty is, sir."

"Doubtless, but let me suggest that the Spaniards' flag on the staff at the hill top is a trophy well worth having, and the man who pulls it down goes a long way toward winning rapid promotion. I intend to strive for that flag, as a souvenir of Cuba to bear back to our home and lay it at the feet of the fair Lucille—do you dare follow me, Carroll Ames?"

The tone was cold, cynical, the words pointed to inflame a brave man to a desperate act.

"Dare I follow you? I shall lead, follow if you dare."

These words came through shut teeth, and with a smile Frank Farral returned to the head of his men, having uttered no word after the first to prove what he deemed his claim for the love of Lucille Bruce.

He had seen and recognized the ring worn by Carroll Ames as one he had often seen upon Lucille's engagement finger and it was proof that the girl was playing one of them false.

Her bracelet was still upon his right arm, caught back out of sight, but now he allowed it to drop down around his wrist in full view, and a valuable trinket it was.

Suddenly a General and his staff rode along the line and disappeared in the distance. He had only said: "Stand ready men! there is deadly work cut out for you!"

Then came the clear notes of the bugle sounding the advance, and every officer grasped his sword hilt, every man his rifle, while orders ran from lip to lip.

On marched the men, and the rattle of the Mausers was heard ahead, then the lines increased their step to double quick, and loudly with thrilling and forbidding notes the bugle sounded the charge and the deadly assault was begun.

The Spanish stronghold had been won at the sword and bayonet point, and where revolvers and clubbed rifles played their part in the orgie of death.

All the way up the steep hillside, dead and wounded men lay scattered, and on the summit there were ghastly heaps of Spanish dead while American soldiers panting like hounds had thrown themselves down to rest after victory was begun.

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OUTWITTED BY PEGGY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MARGARET SPENCER.

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NOTHER Census! The same rush, push and agony to "get in." I thought the last one ten years ago would kill me, but here it is; ten thousand women begging, weeping and asking for help! I wouldn't mind, but not half of them need the places and only keep deserving ones out."

Tom Seward was literary. He was an elect of old "Newspaper Row," at the capital—was a great power in editorial rooms, correspondent of the "Spouting Horn," "Breezy War," and sent live messages from Congress to the east and west. Wrote fine "Leaders," prophesied nobly on "what's to turn up next!" When particularly solid and good he dashed off spiritual articles for the "church" and "church union." Even odes and sonnets fell gently from his pen.

He was a power in Newspaper Row—and in his bachelor home on a beautiful avenue at the capital, an ideal undisputed head. But for once he was outwitted. Nobody knew just when this home came into existence. One wintry day it sprang into light and life. The first night was dark outside, but through yellow silk curtains leaped the gold and crimson firelight; visions of books and pictures, swift flutterings of a soft gown and curls. The other boys in the row said "lucky Tom! a sister to make his home beautiful." Tom said "Yes, my youngest sister Peggy, the last of the flock, uncalled for."

Tom was ten years older, perhaps wiser than ten years ago, but his opinions on the census were the very same.

On this particular evening with a storm outside, but Paradise within, Tom lay on the pretty home-made divan, Peggy's pride, smoking his cigar, while his sister deftly slipped the scarlet wool over her white fingers as she knitted a spread for the divan—for red was Tom's color.

"Did you know Tom that Mary Wright and Sue Jones had received their appointments?"

"Appointments to what?"

"Why the Census, of course!"

"What in thunder Peg do you know or care about the Census? It's to be hoped those girls will fail to get places and many more as silly as they."

"But Tom, how splendid to earn money and be independent; able to help the poor and do a world of good."

"There are other ways of doing good Peggy. Can't you see how these women with homes and comfortable means fill the places needed by widows, orphans and the hundreds of struggling girls and wives; some, who by their work support families?"

A great silence fell upon the two.

"Tom—"

"Well Peg—"

"I am going to try and get into the Census in July!"

"The devil!"

"No, the Census!"

"Elizabeth Maria Seward!" Tom rose from the divan, and slammed himself into a chair by the fire, for the evening was chilly.

"I'm in dead earnest Tom, the senator from our old home has promised to give me one of his six appointments as soon as I pass the examinations."

Tom looked fully seven feet as he stood before his little yellow-haired sister.

"Peggy, I shall never consent to any such thing! You may cry and moan and pray and get into tantrums, but right here I draw the line. You! with every comfort, a beautiful home, begging a government position to work from 9 till 4 like a factory girl!"

The scarlet yarn ran swiftly through Peggy's fingers, as she quietly replied—

"Ladies work in all public offices, Tom."

"Of course they do! Noble womenly women, earn their daily bread and carry the burdens of needy, loved ones all through life. I honor them and work for them, that's the devil of it! all scraps of girls like you, queens of their homes, with abundance of means, filling the places needed by the army of less fortunate ones. I blush for any man who will allow his mother, wife, sweetheart or sister to draw from Uncle Sam one dollar, so long as he has health and brains to give them a home and the comforts of life. These girls Peggy use their money for furbelows and stuff!"

Another silence.

"Tom, dear, do you think the examinations are very difficult?"

Tom turned his head and took one sharp look at his sister's blue eyes and curly head, for very wonder at this audacious question after

she had let me into the secret."

"Tom, I earned money enough."

"Earned it."

"Yes, I've had one month's pay, and shall soon have another—and—"

"Peggy—did—did you—"

"Yes! you precious old stubborn Tom I did!"

"I am a Census clerk! and you love me all the more! Don't you see how I am improved?"

<p

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Rear Admiral Farquhar who relieved Rear Admiral Sampson of the command of the home squadron in October was the hero of the navy ten years ago. The men who have won fame through the war with Spain have held the attention of the public but Farquhar proved himself of the stuff from which heroes are made. It was he who commanded the flagship *Frenton* when the great storm in the Samoan harbor of Apia, wrecked six vessels and drowned one hundred and forty officers and men. The *Frenton* dragged her anchors and was drifting on the rocky shore when Admiral Farquhar ordered the entire crew into the rigging. The human sail kept the boat in position. Two American ships were drifting helplessly in the grasp of the hurricane when Farquhar ordered the flagship's band on deck and cheered the hearts of the Americans by the strains of the "Star Spangled Banner" that rose above the roar and crash of the awful storm. Again he led the *Frenton*'s men when they cheered the British ship *Calliope* as it fought its way to the open sea. The *Frenton* was wrecked but the entire crew were saved and the brave commander was raised to the rank of Commodore and given the important part of the command of the Bureau of Yards and Docks. Admiral Farquhar was born in Pennsylvania and is now fifty-nine years of age. His first active service was on the African coast in an attempt to suppress the slave trade. While only a midshipman he captured a slaver. He served with credit during the Civil War and until 1871 was constantly at sea. He has had two assignments at the Naval Academy. He has been successively Commandant of the League Island Navy Yard at Philadelphia and the Norfolk Navy Yard. He asked for sea duty during the Spanish War but was detailed to remain in command at Norfolk where he fitted out the revenue cutters and other vessels. The daring and address that he showed during the awful scenes of the Samoan hurricane show one side of his character and the mastery of detail and executive ability displayed in the technical work of the Navy show another. Altogether, the North Atlantic Squadron can be proud of the personality and record of its commanding officer.

We have many miniature painters but Miss Laura Hills ranks among the best in America. What is most surprising is the fact that Miss Hills is almost self taught. She has had a few months' instruction in the Art Student's League of New York and in the Cowles Art School of Boston. Miss Hills was born in the quaint old town of Newburyport, Massachusetts, and still spends much of her time there although her winters are spent in Boston. Her first work was as an illustrator and many of her early drawings appeared in *Saint Nicholas*. She took up the study of pastel and it was from a sale of some of her work in this line that she was able to study in New York. Her success in the field of miniature painting was immediate. During the last five years she has painted the miniatures of many prominent society people and has won unstinted praise from the critics. Two years ago she was elected a member of the society of American Artists. Few women attain to this honor and Miss Hills is the first miniature painter ever chosen into this society. She is very near sighted but this seems to have helped instead of hindered her miniature work. Her tiny bits of ivory are perfect in detail and yet the sense of broad lines and race treatment is never lost. Miss Hills' studio on Boylston street in Boston is a study in green and gold and there she greets and entertains the friends that her charming personality and her work have brought her. She is very resourceful and has a talent for organization. It was she who planned and directed the "Pageant of the Year" a very successful spectacular production given in 1892. Her work is always prominent at all exhibitions of miniature painting.

Stephen Crane is one of the younger school

of realistic semi-literary journalists. He came into public notice with a rocket-like brilliancy. His first book "The Black Riders" was verse and verse of a rather startling kind. The editor of the *Bookman* brought young Crane into notice by means of a very flattering review. He called him an original and powerful writer of eccentric verse—"one who stimulates thought because he himself thinks." His next book *The Red Badge of Courage* is said to be the most striking picture of the bare revolting facts of war ever written. At the time it was penned, Crane had never seen a battle. He says that he gained his knowledge from the sense of the rage of conflict given in the football fields. During the Spanish war Mr. Crane received an enormous salary as special correspondent of a New York city daily. Mr. Crane is a college man, having received his training at *Lafayette College* and *Syracuse University*. He has recently spent much time in England. His last book is called "War is Kind."

The Princess

Adolphe de Wrede is a talented and beautiful woman who is seeking success as a concert singer. She has had a rather tragic life and has just finished a struggle in the courts for the legality of her title of princess. The princess is a Hungarian by birth and in early life was the wife of a Hungarian physician—Dr. Dobrzanski. They went to live in Russia and the marriage was annulled in that country. In 1891 in Paris, the lady married the Prince de Wrede. The Prince afterwards met a wealthy South American widow and succeeded in getting a Bavarian court to declare his first marriage illegal. Upon this he married the rich widow and the Princess de Wrede has since been fighting the matter in the French courts. She came to this country and sang at the French and German embassies in Washington. She has been taken up by the ultra fashionable set at Newport where she has been singing during the last summer. Her voice is remarkable for its range and sweetness. She sings in six languages; English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Hungarian. She was a pupil of Tosti. Her Hungarian folk songs have caught the popular fancy. The Princess wears most beautiful gowns and was especially admired in a rose satin empire gown. Her diamonds are very fine and altogether it is hard to realize that a woman of title with all the appearance of great wealth is really trying to make her way on the professional stage. The Princess has however the qualities that win popular approval and her pluck and her talent will win even without the interest that her romantic story and her society following will excite.

William K. Vanderbilt is a name known all over the world as a King of Millions, but of William K. Vanderbilt the man but little is known outside the circle of his intimate friends. Comparatively few people recognize him on the streets of New York. He has the reputation of being exclusive and taciturn but those who know him well always speak of kindness of heart as one of his prominent characteristics. "Willie K." as he is often called is a grandson of the famous commodore who founded the great Vanderbilt fortune. He was educated at an academy in Geneva, Switzerland, but returned home at the age of nineteen to a clerkship in the treasurer's office of the New York Central railroad. He was shown no favors but was told that promotion depended solely on his merit. He demonstrated enough business ability to procure his transfer into the traffic department where he became acquainted with methods and detail of this line of railroading. He has never shown in his business career a fondness for detail and aside from his first experiences as a clerk leaves all this part of the work to subordinates. He has developed a great executive faculty and an ability for bold combinations and for seeing schemes that has

revolutionized the Vanderbilt system and promises to extend it across the continent. During his apprenticeship as a clerk he was made director in several of the Vanderbilt lines. His fellow clerks remember him as quiet and unobtrusive, not unfriendly but little disposed to talk. He has always been rather a silent man. With his brother Cornelius he took his little turn in Wall street. His father had warned him to keep out of speculation but experience had to teach him and the experience cost his father many millions. It was said that "Willie K." was then put on an allowance of \$50,000 a month—enough to live on but not enough for speculation. W. K. Vanderbilt has had charge of the western system of the Vanderbilt lines. He selects his men carefully but expects from each president of a line definite results. The men and measures needed to obtain these results are left entirely to the head of that line. Business men who know W. K. Vanderbilt best declare that his resourceful mind, force and energy would have made a fortune had he been a poor boy. As it was, he inherited over \$70,000,000 and the fortune has grown in his hands. He is a man who enjoys the pleasures of life in a natural way. He is not yet fifty years of age, is fond of society, fond of yachting, of horses and of the country. He is known as a judge and patron of art and has one of the finest private collections of paintings in America. He is familiar with current literature and finds time to read even in the social and business rush. He had a large collection of rare books destroyed when his country home at Idlewild was burned this spring. It is said that from forty to fifty begging letters reach Mr. Vanderbilt every day but his secretary disposes of them. It is not easy to gain a personal interview with him but if one is had his courtesy and attention are fully given. Mr. Vanderbilt takes frequent trips abroad on his own yachts—the last one being on the *Valiant*. Mr. Vanderbilt's Fifth Avenue home is a copy of the wing of a famous French chateau. He is about to commence the rebuilding of Idlewild on a much more extensive scale. His son William K. Vanderbilt Jr. has recently married the great California heiress—Virginia Fair, while his daughter Consuelo is the beautiful young Duchess of Marlborough. Mr. Vanderbilt retained a dignified silence and gained the sympathy of the public through the trying publicity of his wife's divorce and marriage to O. H. P. Belmont. He has the respect of all who are associated with him in business way and the love and admiration of the few who come near to the man and can see him rather than his millions.



Turkey's Consul General to America would pass for an American although he could speak no English less than twenty-one months ago. Mundji Bey is about thirty years of age, short of stature and with dark hair and eyes. He

has a very plain little office in State street, New York. He shows a most loyal devotion to the Sultan or Sooltan as all natives pronounce the word. The Turks train their young men for the diplomatic service. Mundji Bey studied for five years in the Turkish Government's High School of Diplomacy at Constantinople and the diploma of that institution hangs on the cedar partition that divides his 10 by 12 office. His father was a Turkish Governor General so that Mundji Bey was born in the official circle. His diploma fitted him to be appointed as a Consul General Secretary of an Embassy or Chief of some department. He has been twelve years on the Sultan's service and a Consul for six years. He was in Greece when hostilities broke out between that country and Turkey and he was forced to return to Constantinople. Mundji Bey is very "up-to-date" in his appreciation of the possibilities of the diplomatic service. Literary diplomats are very popular and the Turkish Consul General can claim a place in this intellectual aristocracy of the political circles. He is the author of a number of novels in the Turkish language among them being "The Bitterness of Life," "The Run to Death" and "The Pink Handkerchief." The last book is founded upon some romantic incidents in his own life. He has also been a constant contributor to Turkish papers. His commission from the Sultan hangs on the wall of his office. The Sultan's signature appears at the top but to the uninitiated it appears to be a strange and weird hieroglyphic. Mundji Bey speaks four languages and is ready to converse

of Turkish customs and manners in any of them. The moment any topic having a political bearing is introduced he shows all the diplomacy of the Orient and refuses to enter into any discussion. He is very observant and very shrewd and studies the political life of this country very closely. Altogether he is an interesting type of the modern Turk.

IT CAN'T BE DONE.

No One Can Remain Well, No Chronic Disease Can be Cured Unless the Stomach is First Made Strong and Vigorous.

This is plain because every organ in the body depends on the stomach for its nourishment. Nerve, bone, sinew, blood are made from the food which the stomach converts to our use.

How useless to treat disease with this, that and the other remedy and neglect the most important of all, the stomach.

The earliest symptoms of indigestion are sour risings, bad taste in the mouth, gas in stomach and bowels, palpitation, all gone feeling, faintness, headaches, constipation; later comes loss of flesh, consumption, liver and heart troubles, kidney diseases, nervous prostration, all of which are the indirect result of poor nutrition.

Any person suffering from indigestion should make it a practice to take after each meal one of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, allowing it to dissolve in the mouth and thus mingle with the saliva and enter the stomach in the most natural way. These Tablets are highly recommended by Dr. Jennison because they are composed of the natural digestive acids and fruit essences which assist the stomach in digesting all wholesome food before it has time to ferment and sour.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are sold by druggists, full sized packages at 50 cents. They are also excellent for invalids and children. A book on stomach diseases and thousands of testimonials of genuine cures sent free by addressing F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

FUR SCARF Baltic Seal \$2.25

with Two Heads and Six Bear Tails; (Regular value \$5.00). Send \$2.25 and get Scarf promptly.

MUFF to Match \$1.50

Child's White Algora Muff and Collar \$2.00

Catalogue Free.

We Also Want More Agents.

Agents make upwards of \$10 a day taking orders for our bargain-price Ladies' Suits, Wraps, Skirts, Furs, Millinery, Waist, Mackintoshes, etc. No capital required. Agents' handsomely illustrated outfit of large cloth samples, confidential price-list, instructions, stationery, etc., sent express paid, on receipt of \$5.00, which we refund when orders reach \$30.

STEWART & CO.,

50-54 Fifth Ave., Chicago.

Please mention *Comptoir* when you write.



EARN A GOLD WATCH

by selling Duane's Tea among your friends and neighbors until the total amounts to 45 lbs. Sell 10 lbs. and get a pair of Skates, ladies' solid Gold Ring, nickel plated Watch, handsome Clock, pair lace Curtains; 15 lbs., Fliebert Rifle; 20 lbs., best Camera or Toboggan; 25 lbs., Brass Bed, Mackintosh, Bantam Lamp, Men's Rings, Ladies' Brooches. Your selection for a few odd hours work. Write for premium catalogue. We refer to "Comfort." Duane Tea Co., Department "D," Boston, Mass.

K.N. MONEY

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CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

If any one had believed that the day of the bicycle was over and that interest in wheeling is on the decline, attendance on the twentieth annual meeting of the League of American Wheelmen at Boston last August would have speedily convinced him to the contrary. It was estimated that over 20,000 wheelmen and women were in the thickest of it. Wheels were everywhere in evidence and the bicycle was king. The affair easily out-rivaled all previous occasions and the old, experienced wheelmen who has attended these meets before met with hundreds, not to say thousands of familiar faces and exchanged the "glad hand" with as many more.

The first annual meeting of the L. A. W. was held in New York twenty years ago. The second was held in Boston at which time there was a membership of 165 and an attendance of 750. Now the membership is considerably over 50,000. The third meeting was held in New York in '81 and the third in Chicago in '82 at which a new code of bylaws was adopted, providing for the election of a chief consul and representative based upon membership for all states in the Union. In '83 the League met in New York and paraded in Central Park when it adopted an official organ which has been continued ever since. The membership was then reported as 4250. The sixth annual meet was held in New York; seventh in Boston; eighth at St. Louis; ninth at Baltimore; 10th at Hagerstown; 11th at Niagara Falls; 12th at Detroit; 13th at Washington; 14th at Chicago; 15th at Denver; 16th at Asbury Park; 17th at Louisville; 18th at Philadelphia; 19th at Indianapolis; and the 20th was that in Boston last August.

In 1886 the League met its first opposition from the racing men and the racing board revolted and formed an association known as the American Cyclist's Union. This organization attempted to control the fall tournaments and to rule rather arbitrarily; but it only lived about a year and was followed by another association which struggled along for a couple of years or so and then died a natural death. The National Cyclist's Association has been its only successful opponent.

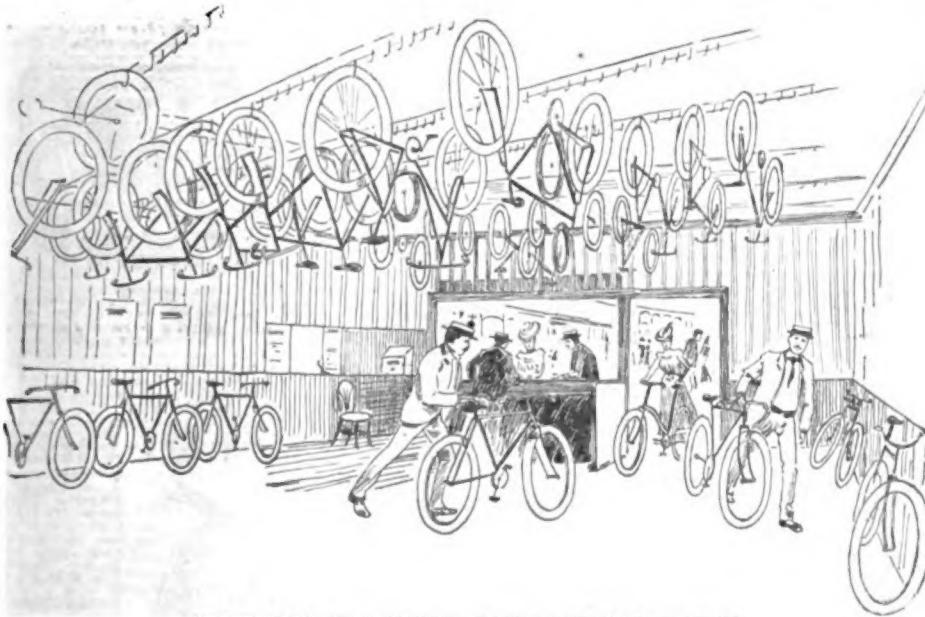
The history of the racing and the mile record in this country would make a thick book. Back in 1878, when H. M. Pope made a mile in 3m. 53s, his record was thought to be nothing short of marvelous; just as they used to think a trotting horse that could go at a "2.40" rate beat everything ever heard of; but the bicycle record, like the trotter's, has been steadily lowered. Several men have distinguished

M. F. Dirnberger	Dec. 12, 1893	11 51
J. P. Bliss	July 13, 1894	11 54 4-5
H. C. Tyler	Aug. 4, 1894	11 53 4-5
H. C. Tyler	Aug. 4, 1894	11 57 3-5
J. P. Bliss	Sept. 5, 1894	11 52 3-5
J. S. Johnson	Sept. 28, 1894	11 50 3-5
Otto Ziegler	Oct. 16, 1894	11 50
H. C. Tyler	Oct. 27, 1894	11 48 3-5
J. S. Johnson	Nov. 21, 1894	11 47 3-5
M. F. Dirnberger	June —, 1895	11 46
J. S. Johnson	Oct. 21, 1894	11 44 1-5
A. Gardiner	Nov. 11, 1895	11 42 2-5
P. J. Berlo	Dec. —, 1895	11 40 2-5
W. W. Hamilton	March 2, 1896	11 39 1-5
J. Platt-Betts	May 15, 1897	11 40
E. A. McDuffee	Aug. 14, 1897	11 38 1-5
J. Platt-Betts	Aug. 19, 1897	11 37 3-5
J. W. Stocks	Sept. 8, 1897	11 36 2-5
E. A. McDuffee	Oct. 28, 1897	11 35 2-5
J. Platt-Betts	May 9, 1898	11 35
Edward Taylor	Aug. 6, 1898	11 32 3-5
Major Taylor	Nov. 12, 1898	11 32 3-5
Major Taylor	Nov. 15, 1898	11 31
E. A. McDuffee	Nov. 15, 1898	11 31 4-5
J. Platt-Betts	July —, 1899	11 31 2-5
E. A. McDuffee	July 7, 1899	11 31 2-5
Major Taylor	July 29, 1899	11 28
Major Taylor	Aug. —, 1899	11 22 3-5

*Standing start. †Flying start. †Rejected. Record not as yet accepted by national racing board.

This record shows the mile paced over which more money and energy have been spent than on any known record. And its growth marks the wonderful strides that have been made toward the perfection of the wheel and the equipment of tracks and pace-making machines, and recently of motor propulsion as well. But the record does not begin to tell the story; there is a volume behind it of the training and record-breaking camps, of hundreds of men employed, of specially constructive machines, of the wonderful care taken of the principal performer and his machine, of the large sums of money invested by manufacturers for advertising purposes, of the joy at triumph and the heart-breaking disappointments which follow upon success or defeat; and of a thousand and one minor details that cannot even be hinted at here.

The L. A. W. has now become one of the most powerful organizations in the country and the time has arrived when even politicians recognize it. Next year being presidential year, the League intends to push various schemes in the legislatures for the coming winter that will act in the interests of wheelmen. They will ask the legislators of different parties to place themselves on record as for or against wheelmen just previous to the great political struggle. They will get bills introduced to Congress which will include those intended to improve the highways, to force railroads to carry wheels as baggage in



CYCLE ROOM AT A BOSTON, MASS., RAILROAD STATION.

themselves but the honors of late years seem to be about easy between Major Taylor and McDuffee, that is taking an average of a number of years in succession. From 3m. 53s. the record has been brought down to one minute and twenty-two and two-fifths seconds. Doubtless another year it will be reduced still farther; although it does not now seem possible. The improvements in machines has of course largely to be credited with the lowering of the record. Following is the tabulated list of the record from the beginning, which I am sure my readers will be glad to see and those interested in the racing question will like to preserve:

Rider.	Date.	TIME.
H. M. Pope	1878	*3 53
W. R. Pitman	July 4, 1878	13 45
G. R. Agassiz	Oct. 19, 1878	*3 21 1-2
I. Keith-Falcomer	1878	*2 52 2-5
R. Edlin	1878	*2 46 1-2
Sanders Sellers	Sept. 9, 1881	*2 39
R. Howell	Sept. 29, 1885	*2 31 2-5
W. A. Rowe	1886	*2 29 4-5
R. J. McCredy	1890	*2 28 3-5
W. C. Jones	1890	*2 26 3-5
F. J. Osmond	July 13, 1891	*2 15
W. W. Windle	Oct. 7, 1891	*2 15
George F. Taylor	July 4, 1892	*2 14
George F. Taylor	Aug. 3, 1892	*2 11
A. A. Zimmerman	Sept. 9, 1892	*2 08 4-5
George F. Taylor	Sept. 9, 1892	*2 08 1-5
A. A. Zimmerman	Sept. 9, 1892	*2 08 4-5
H. C. Tyler	Sept. 15, 1892	*2 08 4-5
J. S. Johnson	Sept. 21, 1892	*2 04 3-5
J. S. Johnson	Sept. 22, 1892	*1 56 4-5
W. W. Windle	Oct. 7, 1892	*2 02 3-5
W. W. Windle	Oct. 8, 1892	*2 05 3-5
W. W. Windle	Oct. 3, 1893	*1 58 1-5
W. W. Windle	Oct. 13, 1893	*1 58 4-5
J. S. Johnson	Nov. 8, 1893	*1 55 3-5

states which have not already conceded this point, and to make ordinances in each state uniform. As it is usually necessary to make a hard fight before the League can secure the passage of any bills, they are prepared this season to be unusually energetic as politicians will be more than ever willing to make concessions. It is expected that this campaign will not only be carried on in the different state legislatures but will also be pushed up to Congress as there are many ways in which that body can assist wheelmen. The L. A. W. is and has been for several months, preparing a vigorous campaign with their details all systematically arranged. And it is more than probable that they will have won signal victories and gained several important concessions before another summer comes.

The importance of good roads is something that interests more than wheelmen. Property owners everywhere are affected by it perhaps more than you think. As an example of the increased valuation of property caused by the improvement of roads, it is stated on good authority that in one year property in New Jersey county advanced nearly one million dollars. In the United States there are over a million miles of highway and the saving of a few cents per mile in the cost of hauling produce to and from railway stations would, it is said, aggregate a sum sufficient for the construction of all the roads now needed east of the Mississippi river. This seems like a large statement but it is given by officials who know their business.

It is estimated that to-day there is an annual output of over 500,000 bicycles and that there are over a million wheels in common use in the United States. The bicycle manufacture has

GROWING THINNER
and thinner until
you get
down in
bed



WEAK LUNGS AND WASTING AWAY THE BANE OF WOMANHOOD.

THE FAMOUS SLOCUM TREATMENT CURING THOUSANDS IN EVERY STATE.

FREE TO EVERY READER OF COMFORT.

Thousands of women are wasting away day by day, week by week, month by month, through anxiety, overwork and motherhood.

Their once robust constitutions have been overtaxed, and the wasting away process has thrown them into decline.

From 150 pounds to the last bed of sickness, from which all hope has fled, is but a step or two.

How important, then, to check the consumptive germs in time?

Everyone who has weak lungs, who has a cough that does not mend, who has asthma, catarrh, or pulmonary trouble, the grip or its after effects, should without delay send for a full course of Dr. Slocum's famous FREE treatment which is sent free to all who apply.

Delay means but one ending—consumption.

Since the wonderful discoveries of Dr. Slocum have been brought to the attention of the medical world, the death rate has been greatly reduced.

Not only will the Slocum System of treatment cure all lung and pulmonary diseases, but even consumption itself, as has been proven by thousands of prominent physicians.

No matter how deep-seated the ailment, Dr. Slocum can cure it.

Mrs. Julia Glover, Easley, S. C., says:

"I contracted consumption in January, 1898. Three physicians failed to help me. Night sweats reduced me so I was but a wreck. After trying almost every means for getting well, I finally sent for a free course of treat-

ment to thousands of men and has added very materially to the profitable business of the country. The perfection of the bicycle has opened a large market for steel and rubber, has revolutionized the methods of drawing seamless steel tubes and wonderfully improved the manufacture of all rubber goods. Instead of importing tubing from England as was formerly the custom, this product is now supplied by American makers, thus developing our home industries. There are hundreds of patented devices for covering tires and attaching them to the felloes, which have been patented here, to say nothing of the development of manufacturing saddles, lanterns, belts and other accessories.

Surely, the bicycle has been a boon to America as a country as well as to the individual rider whose name is legion.

A HANDSOME PRESENT FREE.

That's what we said and that's what we mean. Five minutes of your time will get it. Do you know or have you heard of any one in your town or County who is contemplating either now or later on, to purchase an Organ or a Piano? If you have, send their names to the Beethoven Piano & Organ Co., Box 11024, Washington, D. C. The Company will immediately forward you their book of handsome Premiums and a Premium Certificate, which will entitle you to a premium. Send the best names you can get and be sure and get the correct P. O. address. The sooner you send the names the sooner you get the premium.



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MAKES \$10 A DAY ON \$50 CAPITAL. Easy. Write now. Brown Lewis Co., 233 Wabash Ave., Chicago.

ment from Dr. Slocum, and it entirely cured me. To-day I weigh 191 pounds, and am a living example of the wonderful miracles he is performing everywhere."

The Slocum Treatment kills the deadly bacilli, imparts vigor to the body, and makes firm, healthy flesh.

In a word, it strengthens and builds up, making men, women and children stout and healthy, when all other means have failed.

Now that the raw winds of fall and winter are at hand, Dr. Slocum proposes to further demonstrate his wonderful triumph by sending to every suffering reader of COMFORT a Full Free Course of the Four Preparations comprising the treatment.

Simply send your post office and express address, stating that you read the article in COMFORT, and the Free Course will reach you without delay.

WRITE THE DOCTOR.

Write Dr. T. A. Slocum, 98 Pine Street, New York, where his great laboratories and correspondence-consulting offices are located.

When in doubt as to your disease, or in need of advice, write the Doctor freely, and you will be told what to do.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Slocum Treatment is medicine reduced to an exact science, and this is an honest, straightforward offer made by the world's most famous physician. All readers of COMFORT anxious regarding the health of themselves, children, relatives or friends, can have Four Free Preparations, with complete directions for use in any case, by sending full address to Dr. Slocum's Laboratory, New York City. When writing the Doctor please say you saw this article in COMFORT.

ALL WOOL SUIT \$5.95

Man's Suit made from rich Black Cheviot, woven by America's Best Woolen Mill from fine picked wool yarn, dyed by a new process and canary yellow—famous everywhere for its perfect weave and deep black color.

SKILLED SUIT TAILORS will make in latest neck style to fit perfectly, line it with fine heavy Farmer's satin and sew it with pure silk and linen thread, guaranteed far better in quality, style and looks than others beat \$10 suit.

SEND NO MONEY but send this ad. and we'll send the suit and our bill book, cloth book of other suits from \$5.95 up and overcoats from \$5.95 up, or send us your height, weight, chest, waist and crotch measure with your C. O. D., subject to examination; send it to us, try it on, see that it fits perfectly, then pay the express agent the balance of \$4.95 and expressage, only after you find it exactly to your taste, a perfect fit and far better than others beat \$10.00 suits. Send today quick for suit or free sample book.

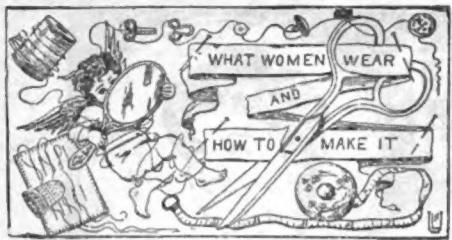
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Please mention COMFORT when you write.

THE PIN OF THE PERIOD.

DWEY SWORD STICK PIN.
Now that Dewey has returned every man, woman and child in the country will want to wear one of these beautiful gilt emblems. The elegant sword voted by Congress to be presented to Admiral Dewey was presented to the hero of Manila by President McKinley early in October. This beautiful gilt emblematic stick pin sword is very strongly made, the blade has a sharp point and as the sword is warranted never to tarnish, it makes the most appropriate and useful souvenir of the season. Each sword comes mounted on Red, White and Blue cards three inches square and are selling by the thousand. Men wear



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

AVISH as was the display of splendid stuff last year, this season's outpouring seems to surpass anything ever yet attempted. Fancy fur combined with lace as a trimming, the fur appliqued on the lace or batiste, as is often the case, the pattern of more or less coarse design so as to give full sway to the fur ornamentation. One gorgeous piece of this trimming had the fur studded with jewels—turquoises being the stones chosen. Persian lamb appliqued on ecru lace, encrusted with pearls and coral makes a most effective decoration used on a gown of the new mode tint. The favored shade for dressy gowns for the coming season is biscuit in its various tones ranging from creamy tan to a pinkish dust color. Green, a shade quite brilliant and bordering on the emerald is also much in vogue and likely to find favor.

From Paris comes the cry, "down with habit backs," which means that the graceful skirt with no fullness at the back has had its day and, sorry as we are, we can but abide by it. Box pleats are given us instead. Pleats graduating from an inch in width to considerable of a flare at the foot. Sometimes one single pleat is all that is used, more often the pleat is doubled, however. Still the close sheath effect is guarded and one must look slim as a rail down to the knees where considerable flare is required. A novelty in skirts has its entire front breadth laid in tiny perpendicular tucks flying out loosely at the foot, the sides and back arranged in graduated box-pleats, each pleat stitched in pointed fashion from the belt to some distance below the hips.

For indoor wear the spencer waist is superseding the shirt waist, and is universally becoming alike to stout and slender figures. A dainty waist of this order is made up of pink and white striped taffeta, the stripes of equal width and so arranged in tucks at the yoke as to make the effect entirely white. It has a smart finish at the throat and belt of plain pink taffeta hemmed and brought into perky little bows at the front. Those neat little bits of linen hemstitched on the edges, worn over the ribbon at the neck are added to the smartest of gowns in a most taking way.

A clever girl of my acquaintance has an old-fashioned skirt of black taffeta flounced from the foot to the belt; of course this is terribly out of date, so to render it useful for dressy wear this winter she has ripped off all the flounces except those directly at the foot, and with four yards of new taffeta has fashioned an overdress, slightly pointed at the front and back, the edge set off by several rows of baby velvet ribbon, and a row of two-inch silk fringe. By the way; fringe is the accepted decoration of the season and is used on all manner of gowns to such an extent that it is likely to become common and vulgar; but until it does it will be hailed as something new and decidedly fetching.

An exquisite idea for a bodice to wear at evening functions, is made after the spencer model, composed of alternate rows of inch wide velvet ribbon and lace of half the width, the yellow tint preferred. The one I have in mind is pale blue with yellow lace insertion

the ubiquitous black skirt which has bored us for so many seasons.

Among the smartest hats shown is one of mouse gray felt in the sombrero shape, having a low round crown twisted about with two shades of gray velvet lined with satin of the same shade. These are knotted on the left side and through the knots are stuck two tiny gold clubs. Scarfs of silk of black or colors are tied with a silk fringe on the edge are considered the correct adjunct to the up-to-date head gear. A smart hat of this style is in the popular "Rounder" shape in soft black felt, the low, indented crown encircled by the silk sash, the ends drooping low over the hair at the back, while a knot of the silk at the side holds a bunch of coquilles jauntily in place.

Imported hats show a lavish use of strings and tulle scarfs which are vastly becoming, and yet fail to catch the fancy of our women who consider that they add to one's age however becoming they may be. Toques are more heavy and cumbersome than ever before it would seem, though they are wonderfully becoming and are usually heavy with birds or plumage of some sort.

Outrageous are the long quills so many hats are displaying, some of them almost a half a yard in length, and give the wearer a somewhat grotesque look. Still they are stylish, and, of course, that is the only result many women aim for.

Poke bonnets are seen occasionally and are wonderfully becoming to a round, youthful face, filled in, as they are, underneath the brim, with softest linings of tulle, or chiffon of a becoming color. A dainty one in black velvet, the outside heavy with rich black plumes, has its brim faced with rose pink mirror velvet on which are set rows of shirred chiffon so arranged as to look like tiny roses; the ties are of black faced with pink.

A pretty little frock for a child's dancing party is shown here, made up in white Japanese silk, with yoke and sleeves of white lace over silk. The soft silk sash encircling the waist may be of any color desired, or the entire effect may be kept white.

A smart wrap to be worn at afternoon or evening functions when one wishes to be especially well-dressed is given in the sketch—the snug little coat body is made up in a russet shade of velvet, very deep and warm in tone, the flaring collar is faced with the same, while the broad revers are faced with deep ecru lace over white satin—the material used in the outside of cape is a shade of biscuit-colored broad-cloth, set off by rows of black chenille at the edge, and finished by a deep black silk

fringe. The jaunty little jacket displays the new rolling collar now so much in evidence which may be of fur, or faced with velvet.

A smart house-gown of white wool, very soft and fine, has the quaint open fronted skirt showing the flounced petticoat of white taffeta, the upper part of the opening caught together by lacings of rose colored velvet.

MEXICAN BURDEN BEARERS.

The casual observer it would seem that all the burdens of Mexico are borne by the women and donkeys. Should you happen to be in the City of Mexico on Sunday, the principal market day of the poorer people, take your stand anywhere between the Piazza and San Juan market, and note the loads the women carry. Bales and a baby; boxes and a baby, bags and a baby, baskets and a baby, in fact everything that is being brought to the market, the inevitable baby being secured in the folds of the mother's *rebozo* (scarf) and riding astride her hips.

Note the family groups. Here is one that is typical of the Mexican Indian; in front comes the wife and mother, moving in the queen dogtrot that all American Indian women have, and almost hidden from view beneath a heavy load of garden truck she is bringing from the distant Chinampas. Behind her trudge two or three



worn over a slip of creamy-white satin, the throat and belt are finished by ribbons of the blue brought into dainty knots at the front. Gracefully hanging skirts of pale gray velvet or tan cloth are to take the place of



A SMART WRAP.

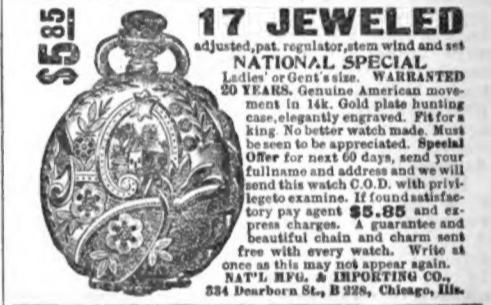
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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writer can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st. For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd. " second best original letter	2.50
3rd. " third " "	2.00
4th. " fourth " "	1.50
5th. " fifth " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

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Mary Pierson,
Frederick Lehr Newland,
Signora Crawford,
Mrs. F. A. Mitchell,
Chester O. Sanborn,

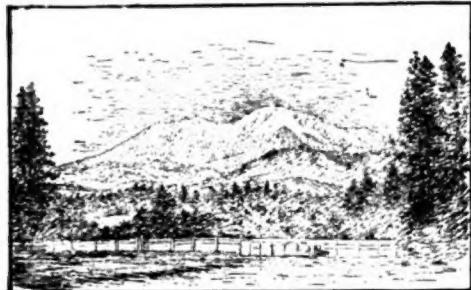
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EAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Again has come around our yearly festive season of Thanksgiving, when all we good Americans "Tink ob our marcies," as the old colored woman expressed it. I hope we are none of us unmindful of the blessings that are strewn all along our way, but just now, when our harvests have been gathered in, and our winter supplies stored away, we have special reason for gratitude that "our wants are all supplied."

I feel particularly grateful to my nieces and nephews this month for so generously providing me with letters for my page. Our first letter was written last August, but as my August matter is sent in June I think you will not object to reading it now.

"We have been making our first visit to the Pacific Coast this summer, and have seen a great many new and interesting things. I should like to tell you about them all, but that would take too long, so I am going to write only about our stay in this little village in northern California, nestled



MT. SHASTA.

at the foot of Mt. Shasta. The inn at which we are staying is right in the midst of beautiful, great pines and cedars, with charming views in all directions. But most beautiful of all is the sight of the great mountain rising 14,440 feet above the sea, its summit and sides covered with snow.

"Long ages ago Shasta was an active volcano, pouring out great flows of lava, of which the present great mountain is the result. The crevices between these masses of lava rock have been filled with vast quantities of fine volcanic ash, blown from the great crater after the flow of fiery lava had subsided. On this mountain can be found all the phenomena of high Alpine regions, real glaciers flowing down into the valleys, tiny, deep blue glacial lakes, and sulphur springs which bubble up out of the rocks near the edge of the old crater.

"The water from the melting snow does not run down over the surface of the mountain, as one might expect, but sinks into the volcanic rock, appearing again at the base in immense springs. One of these is the source of the great Sacramento river, and from another is taken the 'Shasta soda' which is famous all over the west.

"Few people who come to the inn, except strong men, attempt to climb to the top of the mountain. Most people content themselves with easier and shorter excursions. A party of us went one day to visit a large lumber mill on the Sacramento, a forest murderer, I call it, it seems so wicked to cut down all these magnificent trees. Between the lumbermen and the fires, the fine forests of the Pacific Coast are rapidly disappearing, though our Government is at last awake to the situation and is taking steps to preserve them. We can only hope that laws will be made and enforced before it is too late. I was glad to meet one man with immense lumber interests, who told me he was replanting his land as fast as the timber is cut.

"Another interesting visit which we made was to a fish hatchery near by, one of seven maintained by the State. At the time of our visit, the ponds and breeding tanks were filled with trout of many varieties. Brook trout from New England, Loch-leven trout from Scotland, brown trout from Germany, Dolly Varden and rainbow trout, were sporting about together in the beautiful, clear mountain water. These little ponds are very attractive to certain birds. Great blue herons and black and white king-fishers are almost always to be seen hovering about, waiting for chance to dive down and bring up a fine speckled beauty.

"The men in charge of the hatching have orders to shoot every fish-loving bird in sight, though the State laws for the protection of birds are generally very strictly enforced, especially in behalf of the blue heron, which is said to be the best scavenger in the country. Just after we left the spot we heard the report of a shotgun, and the next morning a pair of great, stately blue wings were

sent to us as a souvenir. Then we knew that one more blue heron had ceased its work, for good and ill, and that the heart of the keeper was glad."

MARY PIERSON,
Sisson, Siskiyou County, California.

Our second letter takes us to the other side of the United States, in the beautiful old State of Virginia.

"In an almost perfect climate, where the rigors of winter are softened by the warmth of the southern sun, and the heat of the summer is tempered by the cool breezes of the Chesapeake, more than four thousand of Uncle Sam's soldiers are waiting the setting of life's sun in the Home for disabled soldiers in Hampton, Virginia.

"It was in the summer of 1898 that we visited this Home in acceptance of an invitation from one of its inmates. It is indeed an ideal place for its purpose. The buildings overlook Hampton Roads, where passes to and fro the traffic of the seas. The grounds are beautifully laid out, and carefully tended. The buildings are handsome, commodious, and models of convenience.

"One of the interesting features of the institution is the culinary department. In the kitchen we came upon an animated scene. Cooks in white caps and aprons were busy preparing dinner, and this is no small task. Seven barrels of potatoes,

small, his eye bright, his nose hawk-billed, his jaws broad and his teeth wide and sharp; of these teeth he makes a mowing machine, clipping blades of grass for his breakfast as neatly as if it were done with scissors. His legs are short and his paws broad, making regular dirt paddles. Each member of the community has his own cellar door to the underground city, but ten feet below the surface each citizen's private apartment opens into his neighbor's; so that in a city containing ten thousand dogs if one is pursued into his hole by smoke, water or other enemy he has many avenues of escape. Their escape is inward and invariably successful, for pursuit is impossible. They have for their companions the snake and the ground owl. Even the most skilful hunters find it difficult to kill these animals. They seem danger afar off, and have a pretty correct idea of rifle range."

SIGNORA CRAWFORD,
Clifton Forge, Virginia.

Bessie C. Hall, Nominy Grove, Va., sends us a pleasant letter on Cabin John Bridge, but so many descriptions of this famous bridge have been published that I can only print a part of it. She says:

"When I was in Washington last fall it was with much pleasure that I visited Cabin John Bridge, through which the water supply of the city of Washington is conveyed over Cabin John Creek. This bridge is remarkable for having the longest stone arch in the world. The arch has a clear span of two hundred and twenty feet, and is said to be twenty feet longer than the arch of the Grosvenor Bridge which spans the River Dee.

"Cabin John Bridge is built of granite with a Seneca stone coping along the roadway. In length it measures four hundred and fifty feet, in height one hundred and five feet. It cost \$237,000 and is claimed to stand unsurpassed in the history of bridge building."

The following extracts are taken from a private letter to myself from a cousin in Summit County, Colorado, but they are so interesting in showing what can be done in the way of making her way in the world by a woman of energy and pluck, that I cannot forbear printing them for the benefit of my nieces and nephews, reserving, however, the name of the writer.

"I have mining property here which will be of great value when developed, yet I am now obliged to suffer for the want of the necessities of life. For two years I have done my own assessment; I have two claims on the same lode, and the law requires one hundred dollars' worth of work for each claim. I did sixty-seven days' work, myself, last summer, which at three dollars per day amounted to two hundred dollars. The law allows three dollars per day on assessment to a woman as well as a man, but I cannot work at rock-breaking; I cannot strike it myself. I can only work on the surface, making roads, etc. I hope to be able to raise money now in a few weeks to put miners at work."

Now let us go to the Argentine Pass, the place whence "the waters run both ways."

"Argentine Pass, which is, I believe, the highest wagon road in the world, is in the Rocky Mountains about ten miles above Georgetown, Colorado. It is thirteen thousand four hundred feet above sea level, and from its summit may be seen at the same

time five of turnips or other vegetables, eight or ten barrels of flour, about two thousand pounds of meat, nearly a barrel of sugar, and quantities of other materials are used daily in preparing the meals for the veterans. Long rows of ranges contain the pans of meats and vegetables, and four copper boilers, each holding one hundred gallons, contain the coffee. We were told that eleven hundred and eighty-eight veterans are fed at one sitting.

"At a signal from the bugle the doors of the dining-room are thrown open, and from the front and sides enter this army of eaters. A second signal sends them, and then another army of waiters files in from the kitchen bearing the smoking and savory dishes. There are twenty or twenty-two tables with three waiters for each table.

"The veterans are not without amusement. Upon the grounds is a well-equipped theater, the donation of Mr. Horatio Ward of London, England, at which are frequent entertainments. The most of these are free. There are also billiard parlors, a shooting gallery, bowling alley, and other pastimes. There is also a free reading room.

"The hospital is one of the important adjuncts of the Home. It has a capacity of five hundred patients. The sanitation is perfect, and hygiene is a hobby with the hospital managers.

"As we were leaving the grounds there passed us a covered wagon. Marching beside it, three on either side, were six men in blue uniforms. Within the wagon was a pine box, with the Stars and Stripes thrown aross it. The wagon was going to the boat landing and the box was addressed to a town in Maine. Another soldier had gone home.

"After the battle, respite;
After their labor, rest;
A leisure hour in a shady bower,
Ere the sun sinks in the west."

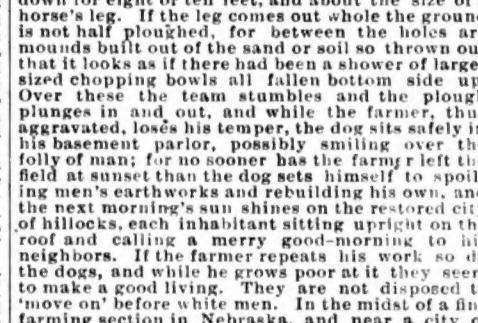
FRED'K LEHR NEWLAND, Lucinda, Pa.

Our next letter gives some facts about that curious little animal, the prairie dog, that are new to me, and perhaps will be to some of my readers.

"Having lived in the west nearly all my life I am well acquainted with the curious little animal known as the prairie dog. He is not much of a dog, but looks very much like a monstrous rat; his yelp has more squirrel than dog in it, and he behaves like a woodchuck; so that while we call this 'ancient builder of cities' west of the Missouri a dog it is well to remember that this bushy little tail would wag as well under several other names.

"By his pertness, shyness, and innocence he makes himself a pet with travelers, ranchmen, and others who do not need for their own use those parts of the great plains where he and his tribe have long been 'squatter sovereigns.' When, however, the farmer comes along, and wants to sow and reap where the dog has made himself a home, he becomes a pest. He stubbornly refuses to yield to the newer civilization; he and his neighbors are too numerous to kill, and they are so skillful at dropping into their sand pits when an enemy comes near that their army seldom loses a man.

"If the farmer attempts to plough a section of the prairie where they burrow the chances are that his horses will break their legs, for the dogs have bored the ground full of holes, running straight down for eight or ten feet, and about the size of a horse's leg. If the leg comes out whole the ground is not half ploughed, for between the holes are mounds built out of the sand or soil so thrown out that it looks as if there had been a shower of large-sized chopping bowls all fallen bottom side up. Over these the team stumbles and the plough plunges in and out, and while the farmer, thus aggravated, loses his temper, the dog sits safely in his basement parlor, possibly smiling over the folly of man; for no sooner has the farmer left the field at sunset than the dog sets himself to spoiling men's earthworks and rebuilding his own, and the next morning's sun shines on the restored city of hillocks, each inhabitant sitting upright on the roof and calling a merry good-morning to his neighbors. If the farmer repeats his work so do the dogs, and while he grows poor at it they seem to make a good living. They are not disposed to 'move on' before white men. In the midst of a fine farming section in Nebraska, and near a city of



PRairie DOGS.

three thousand people, there is a large prairie dog town which was settled when the 'oldest inhabitant' pitched his tent in that section, thirty years ago. But ordinarily they manifest a respect for agriculture by locating in sandy, sterile tracts.

"The prairie dog's head is rather flat, his ears

small, his eye bright, his nose hawk-billed, his jaws broad and his teeth wide and sharp; of these teeth he makes a mowing machine, clipping blades of grass for his breakfast as neatly as if it were done with scissors. His legs are short and his paws broad, making regular dirt paddles. Each member of the community has his own cellar door to the underground city, but ten feet below the surface each citizen's private apartment opens into his neighbor's; so that in a city containing ten thousand dogs if one is pursued into his hole by smoke, water or other enemy he has many avenues of escape. Their escape is inward and invariably successful, for pursuit is impossible. They have for their companions the snake and the ground owl. Even the most skilful hunters find it difficult to kill these animals. They seem danger afar off, and have a pretty correct idea of rifle range."

and how they make the spiders fight. Perhaps I will write that in another letter.

CHESTER O SANBORN

Our next letter describes an old Virginia church. This good old state is rich in the possession of many such antiquities.

"In northeastern Virginia, near the river Potomac, in the county of Westmoreland, so famous in colonial history, stands an antique stone edifice, 'Yeocomoco' church. This building is situated in a lovely valley shaded by magnificent oak trees. Here, in days long gone by, worshipped, among other illustrious men and women, the famous Washingtons and Lees of our beloved land, and in the spacious 'city of the dead' which surrounds the structure, sleep the remains of hundreds of the departed who have been potent factors in the upbuilding of the United States.

"As the ponderous iron gate swings open to admit the visitor within the massive stone wall enclosing the grounds, he sees before him the beautiful, quiet cemetery lying between himself and the portal of the sacred edifice he has come to see. Hundreds of monuments are there, each recording the name and virtues of some long departed man or woman who once played an active part in the history of the country. Entering the building we seat ourselves in the old square pews which tower above our heads as we sit, and once ensconced in their upholstered interior one is free from all scrutinizing stares. There stands the old pulpit, far up above the congregation, who, doubtless, were obliged to crane their necks in order to behold the speaker. There by the chancel stands the font from which Washington received baptism, and there, above the pulpit, hangs the old sounding board which has many times thrown back to the congregation below the thunders of admonition and denunciation uttered by the preacher.

"But before we depart we must visit the old spring, from which so many cooling draughts have been eagerly received by thirsty pilgrims, and from an iron dipper chained to a beech-tree by its side let us partake of the clear, refreshing water, and then, stopping only to inscribe our names on the trunk of the old tree where thousands of other travelers have done the same before us, we reluctantly leave the place.

IRA G. LEWIS, Village, Va.

I have here a piece of fiction by Miss Deborah Bass, of Littleton, N. H., which is very well written, but which I cannot print simply because I do not use stories of any kind. I thank her for it however.

Another frequent correspondent of ours complains because Aunt Minerva is not willing to correct his bad punctuation, spelling, writing and grammar and then give him a prize for his letter. Now, I don't think that would be a bit fair to the other cousins who take pains with their letters and so deserve the prizes. When he sends me a letter which is worthy of a prize I have always given him one.

And now, with thanks for past favors, and hopes for more to come I am your very loving

AUNT MINERVA.

Six Steel Pens Free.

Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta, Maine.



IDAHO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

time the sources of two rivers, one on the Atlantic and the other on the Pacific slope.

"Around us are the flowery slopes and cool and crystal waters; while beyond innumerable mountains of every conceivable form and shape loom up on every side, many of them snow capped. We know not whether to say beautiful or grand; it is both, and as we gaze upon the awful sublimity of the scene our hearts go out with awe and reverence 'from nature unto nature's God.'

"The road on the Pacific slope follows the course of the Snake river, so named, I presume, on account of the serpentine path which it describes as it descends the mountain. The road is cut into the mountain side, and while on the left, as you go down, the mountain rises above you, on your right is a precipice hundreds of feet deep, at the base of which the river throws up the white spray as it dashes over its rocky bed. The road is so narrow that two teams cannot pass each other, and it winds around the mountain so abruptly that you can only see a few feet ahead.

"The first time we crossed the pass the driver told us that once, while on the road, he met a loaded team, and as his wagon was empty they unhitched his horses, led them by in single file, and then took the wagon to pieces, carried the pieces by, set up the wagon and hitched up the horses again before he could go on."

MRS. F. A. MITCHELL, Montezuma, Colorado.

Our next letter is from a boy at the Farm School on Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor. It is not often that I print the letters of children, for this is entirely a grown people's page, but this is so well written and expressed, and withal so interesting that I decided to give it place among the letters of older people.

"It may seem funny to talk about having spiders for pets, but every summer since I have been at the school there have been as many as a hundred spiders in the flower gardens, which the boys have had as their pets. There are about a hundred boys at the school, and each boy can have a garden. If he wants to have spiders for pets he gets permission to go down in the meadow to hunt for them. Then he brings them up to his garden and puts them on some plant. Soon the spider will spin a web and settle down to business and make himself at home. The boys bring the spiders up from the meadow in their hats and often carry them around in that way, wearing the hats on their heads. They never think of being afraid of the spiders.

"There are four kinds of spiders that the boys keep. One they call 'goldie.' This is the largest, and is spotted with two lines of gold running along his back. The 'silver' is a spry and good-looking fellow. If a fly gets in his web he is gone for sure. Sometimes the boys try to fool this fellow



MASASHI KOBAYASHI.

JAPAN AND HER PEOPLE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

In many respects Japan is a most remarkable country. For thousands of years ignorance and superstition had reigned. No foreigners were allowed to enter the country, all ports were closed to vessels of other countries for the people regarded them as devils. Shipwrecked sailors who were fortunate to get back home had marvelous tales to tell of Japan, and they with the exception of a few intrepid missionaries were the only ones who had ever seen the interior of this strange country. In 1872 Commodore Perry sailed into Mississippi Bay, with a commission from the United States to introduce Japan to open her ports to foreigners. In 1872, for the first time in 1000 years, the Mikado appeared to his subjects in person. Before this time the Shogun, acting as prime minister, had been the real head of the empire. The change was made in the form of government to a constitutional monarchy. Ports were opened to foreign vessels, and since that time the Japanese have made the most wonderful advancement, until at the present day the nation takes its place among the great powers of the civilized world, the youngest, though by no means the least important member of the family.

As a people the Japanese are remarkably intelligent, scrupulously clean, and in manners and words might be copied to advantage by most of other nations. They have been called by one writer the "French of Asia," on account of their extreme politeness. They are modest and gentle, sensitive and fond of flowers and animals. Each month of the year they celebrate the blossoming of some of the flowers. On these festal days crowds of people leave for the country to enjoy the beauties of nature. In the spring the cherry-trees, in the summer the chrysanthemums and in the winter the snow-covered trees make beautiful spectacles—keenly enjoyed by these gentle people.

The people in their religion are divided into three groups, the Shintoists, or idolaters, Buddhists, and Christians. Shintoism is now becoming less prevalent, while Christianity is gaining daily in strength. Buddhism is still important, and it is on account of the teachings of this religion that the people have such respect for domestic animals. According to Buddhism, the soul of a dead person enters the body of some animal. Therefore the good Buddhists eat no meat lest perchance they carelessly swallow the soul of some ancestor.

A curious custom prevails at Mikado, the sacred place of temples where all pilgrims go. Here idols are placed in various shrines. The worshippers write their prayers on a piece of paper, chew the paper into a ball, and throw it at the idol. Should the religious spit-ball strike the face of the idol and stick it is a good omen—the prayer will be answered. Should it stick to the body it is a less favorable sign. Should it fall to the ground, there is no hope for the petitioner.

The entrance to the shrines is marked with what are called "torii." These are formed by two, a post on either side of the path, slightly converging. Across the top is placed a beam with the ends bent slightly upward. Some authorities say these are for the birds to perch upon, as birds are regarded as direct messengers to heaven. Others assert that the shape of the torii is in imitation of the Chinese character representing heaven.

The family life of the Japanese is radically different from ours. The father is the head of the family and all live under one roof. On the death of the father the authority falls to the eldest son, who must accept it or be forever disgraced. He directs the rest in everything that they do, and pays all their bills. If a younger son marries the head of the family pays all his bills and the younger son then lives at home. Should there be no son the eldest daughter must ask somebody to marry her. Her husband takes the wife's name, and becomes head of the family. Women have the pleasure of asking men to marry them. In case she is accepted the man takes her name. In case the man asks her, she takes his name. The younger sons are allowed to leave the family and become the head of a family of their own. This has to be done by petition. The eldest son is denied this privilege. It may be easily imagined that the eldest son therefore is not always in an enviable position.

In many of their customs the Japanese are radically different from us. As a nation of respect we stand—they sit. We take off our hats in the house they off their shoes. Our mourning color is black—theirs is white; we drive a horse into a stable, they back him in; they read from right to left, we from left to right; we write across the page—they write up and down. The houses in the larger towns are numbered in the order in which they are built, thus an old house may be number 2, while the next one if recently built may be number 2000.

Twenty-five years ago there were no public schools in Japan, and the young men who

wished for an education were obliged to go to America. To-day there are excellent schools and colleges there with as good a system as can be found anywhere. Foreign teachers were called in, and schools for mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, geology, civil government, electrical engineering, naval construction, modern languages, law, medicine and other branches were established. There is also an excellent school for the deaf and blind.

When the change came, the Japanese were so eager to adopt new methods and new customs that the emperor was obliged to restrain his subjects from abandoning all their old ways. He was successful in so doing and now while civilization has changed the people somewhat in their home life, theaters, shops, festivals, and many habits, they remain unchanged.

Railroads equipped with the finest engines, cars and other material from the best American shops are popular in Japan as are also "ginorickshas," a sort of overgrown baby carriage drawn by manpower, and the even more primitive "Kago" a sort of sedan chair or hammock swung on a pole of bamboo, and carried by two men. These men are splendid specimens of athletes. They can travel 10 miles an hour, carrying a passenger, and keep up this place all day if necessary, with no apparent discomfort. They wear little clothing even in winter except a sort of cape of straw in rainy weather. The farmers also go almost entirely naked even in severe winter weather without seeming to feel the cold. European dress is now being largely worn in the cities, however.

Japan will soon be the equal of any country on the globe. To-day her schools are as fine as any—her people are learning mechanic arts rapidly, her army is composed of fine, well-drilled and well-officered men, while her navy, equipped with the latest modern warships is formidable indeed. No better example of her superiority on the sea could perhaps be shown than her late war with China, where the difference between modern progressiveness and ancient conservatism was so marked as to be almost pitiful.

Haciendo Del Oso (Playing the Bear.)

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE customs governing love-making in countries whose people are of the Spanish race would drive the average American youth to despair. The usual course of procedure in a love affair is this: A young man sees somewhere a young woman who attracts him, in other words he falls in love with her at first sight, or thinks he does, which amounts to the same thing, and if he does not already know who she is and where she lives, he hastens to find out.

He wastes no time in seeking a formal introduction, for that he well knows is unobtainable, but he begins promenading back and forth where he can be seen by the young woman from her little cage of a balcony, and this from the walking to and fro like a chained animal, is called "haciendo del oso" (playing the bear). La Señorita is quick to note and understand his actions, and if she is not pleased with his appearance, or for any other reason does not wish his attentions, she gives no response to his meaning glances and theatrical demonstrations of blissful pain, but turns her back upon him, practically saying, "Go away, I do not like you."

On the other hand, if she wishes to encourage him, she looks at him tenderly and gives him an occasional smile, and both being acquainted with the language of the eye and fan, they soon reach an understanding although not a word has been spoken. Thus encouraged, the young man continues day after day, sometimes, but only in rare instances, for years, to walk to and fro in sight of his sweetheart. Usually, however, after a period of promenading and serenading, and smiling and sighing, in which he is supposed to prove the sincerity of his profession, if it has been ascertained that he is a desirable match, he is invited to call.

His troubles are not ended yet, however, if viewed from the standpoint of an American courtship, for he is not permitted to sit alone with his sweetheart until a late hour in a dimly lighted parlor whispering tender nonsense into her ear. When he calls he is received in the brightly lighted sala (reception room) by as many members of the young lady's family as may find it convenient to be present, and in their presence and within their hearing his wooing must be conducted.

If everything goes well, an engagement is soon announced, but even then the young people are not permitted to swing on the front gate on starry evenings, discussing astronomy and the condition of the weather. They are never allowed to experience the delights of the moonlight drive alone; and the blissful privacy of the box at theatre or opera, remains equally a stranger, for should the young man rashly invite his sweetheart to accompany him to any place whatever, his invitation is understood to include her entire family.

When at last the long-expected day has arrived, and the good old Padre has pronounced his benediction upon them as husband and wife, the young people are allowed the blissful privilege of being alone, but not before that, even for a moment.

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The month of the year that has few friends and many enemies is here. It takes a very genial optimistic sort of person to pass through the changes and chances of November weather without an adverse comment. A noted satirist once said: "What becomes of conversation if we may not mention the lady who has just left the room?" He seemed to forget the topic that is always with us—the weather. We may resolve not to be inane enough to start the conversational ball rolling with any such time worn farce as the weather. Alas, habit will conquer even the most brilliant and we pass the stereotyped remarks without thinking and with thinking. November has made a desperate effort to redeem its dreary skies and depressing atmosphere by furnishing two good round legal holidays to the poor mortals whose spirit it depresses. Election day and Thanksgiving. Even November skies have a silver lining, although the political party of the gold creed might hesitate to allow it.

Japan has long been noted for the exquisite art displayed in its textile fabrics, its pottery and its carvings. The imagination of the Japanese artist seems to surpass the greatest flights of other nations. Among the common people one can find traces of the delicacy of feeling and the sentiment that prompt the best work of their artist. A British naval officer died when his ship was in the Inland Sea of Japan. He was buried in the grounds of a Japanese temple. For thirty years after the natives cared for the tomb of the stranger. On a certain day of the month they clean and sweep the grave and offer up flowers and incense. A wooden cross had been set up by the ship's officers but this fell into decay. The simple but poetic natured folk of the village had it replaced by a monument of stone. They said: "Truly it would be too sad if the grave of our solitary guest from afar, who has become a spirit in a strange land were suffered to pass out of all knowledge." All this tender, delicate fancy is found among the poorest peasants. Surely our modern poet of labor would have no need of turning from the toilers of this land and exclaiming: "What gulls between him and the seraphim!"

There is always something a little laughable in the annexation schemes of private individuals when they apply the schemes to national affairs. Away back in the Declaration of Independence days we made provision in that historic document for the expected coming of Canada to join the rebellious thirteen. Canada didn't come and she has no more purpose to-day of annexing herself to the "States" than she had in that far away time. Still we have people who seriously discuss the possible annexation of Canada. They will be interested in a brother annexationist in Portugal. He is on the staff of the Portuguese monarch and has published a pamphlet giving several reasons why Spain should become a dependency of Portugal. Poor Spain is indeed fallen when such an idea could be seriously held by any person. The Portuguese aid should read the history of the nation that once conquered and held Portugal. Then he should put beside that proud record the history of this our nation; he should even compare the two nations to-day on the lines of enlightenment and civilization. If he has the least judicial turn to his mind, he will save his ink and his imagination for sorer flights after he has drawn the comparison.

The progress of affairs in the far east becomes of greater interest to us since our acquisition

of the Philippines. It gives us a diplomatic interest in the talked of partition of China, in the rapid advance in civilization of Japan and in the conflict of the rival interest of Russia and England. We are interested now as a nation affected in its commercial interests by the possible men on the checkerboard of Oriental diplomacy. There is much talk of an alliance between China and Japan to prevent the encroachments of Russia. Many students of affairs believe that such a union would place China again in the ranks of powerful nations. It is thought that the Japanese would abolish the official corruption that has honeycombed the government of China. If the Japs were permitted to be the ruling spirits they would reorganize the Chinese army, navy and finances. The combined navy of China and Japan would offer a formidable obstacle to the Russian advance. The Chinese and Japanese for all the difference in national traits are of the same race. They are "brothers under their skin" and a union would undoubtedly save China from becoming the easy prey of European nations.

Every "once in a while" a ripple of excitement is caused by the declaration that woman has usurped some field of labor. Then again, a wave of excitement comes from the amusement that some field of labor is to be closed to women. A late report has it that the government will gradually rid itself of its women employees. It is claimed that they cannot adapt themselves to varieties of work so well as men and cannot respond as easily to sudden call for unusual exertion. A great telegraph line has been saying these same things for years and yet to-day it pays some of its highest salaries to its women employees. On the other hand it is claimed that the men in Chicago are taking positions as "maids" no, "men of all work." This position certainly furnishes a field for versatility of effort and permits its followers "variety of work." It may be that the very point where it is claimed women fail has caused them to abandon "maid of all work" places to men. All in all this discussion of sex in work may be pleasing but is hardly profitable. In spite of theories, in spite of prejudice, in spite of figures the work will eventually fall into the hands of the most able worker. The simple law of equivalents holds on the field of labor as in most other places.

The last two years has seen a perfect furor for the dramatization of novels. A large number of books that have been successful have been rewritten as plays. Mrs. Burnett's *Lady of Quality* was among the earlier of these plays. *The Christian* and *The Little Minister* held the boards all last winter and *The Ghetto*, *The Gadfly* and *Becky Sharp* have been produced this winter as well as a version of Dicken's *Tale of Two Cities*. We have long been familiar with the fact that many people acquire their knowledge of history easily through the medium of historical novels. Now we are concentrating still more and are making the attempt to acquire our knowledge of books through an evening at the play. This dramatization of novels can entirely please but one class of people—those who have not read the novels. The audiences are, however, largely made up of people who have read the books and who desire to see a creation of the mind made real. Each person in reading a book has a mental picture of the people who figure in the story. Their impression is firmly fixed before they see the play. One of two things must follow. They are either pleased or displeased at the production—a negative frame of mind is impossible. If the presentation accords with their own preconceived notions they feel satisfied—if it conflicts they cannot shake off the mental attitude they acquired when reading the production and they reject the interpretation. Our ideas of Shakespeare's heroines are clear cut and distinct because they have never spoken to us except through the lines of the play. It is very doubtful indeed whether art or artifice can justify the novel-play.

Thanksgiving Day, 1899, comes to the American people as a day that can in reality be a day of thanks. The material prosperity of the country is greater than it has been for years. On all sides we see the feeling of confidence in the financial outlook. We can feel that our great country occupies a prouder place on the roll of nations than has ever been accorded to her. The individual feeling of thankfulness is apt to be a matter of temperament. If we made it more a question of arithmetic and established a debit and credit column of our earthly advantages we might find cause for thankfulness more often than we really do. Even the most distressing showing on the debit side leaves one long balance on the credit—the very fact of being alive. It is a good world that we live in—its joys and its sorrows are balanced in a fairly even manner. Thanksgiving Day is a purely American holiday. Its origin was in Puritan New England at the time when they were in greatest opposition to the Church of England and showed that opposition by refusing to observe Christmas Day. This being one of the great festival days of the Church the Puritans refused to make merry or to turn from their ordinary pursuits on that day. Thanksgiving Day was kept at first as a day of feasting and rejoicing—later it became a religious festival. We of later years have been rather prone to hark back to the earliest method of observing the day and have let the feasting and general good time draw us away from the old-time Thanksgiving sermon. Within a few years, however, the current of custom has set back again and the attendance at church has become a part of the regular program of the day.

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MARJOLAIN.

BROWNIE HOVER.

mp

1. There's a name that sometimes haunts me, Mar-jo-laine,
 2. Murmuring silk and sat-in gleaming, Mar-jo-laine!
 3. Lights and pris-ms can-not glist-en, Mar-jo-laine,

First it glad-dens, then it taunts me; The re-
 Bid me from this rus-tic dream-ing, But in
 Like the stars that paus'd to lis-ten By the

Andante.

mf

poco rit.

mp

frain Bids me back to trees and heath-er, Where in old-en gold-en weath-er, You and I were oft to-gether, Mar-jo-laine.
 vain; Tho' en-chant-ments new-en-deav-or That old mys-tic spell to sev-er, Heart throbs speak the old name ev-er, Mar-jo-laine.
 lane; And the stars them-selves, re-pin-ning, Ere we part-ed were de-clin-ing, Awed by your bright eyes outshining, Mar-jo-laine.

REFRAIN.

mf

Mar - - - - - jo - laine, Mar - - - - - jo - laine, How I wish that you were with me once a - gain, With the whisp'ring leaves in cho - rus,

mf

p

D.C.

poco rit.

And the starlight glitt'ring o'er us, And the long white road before us, Mar - - - - - jo-laine. And the starlight glitt'ring o'er us, And the long white road be-fore us, Mar - - - - - jo-laine.

colla parte.

D.C.

colla parte.

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ROCK OF AGES.

There is not a reader of COMFORT that has not known that wonderful hymn "Rock of Ages" always and yet few have heard the story of its origin. Rev. Augustus Toplady, a young clergyman in the Established English church as long ago as the year 1775, was walking through what is known as Barrington Coombe, which is a deep indenture in a forbidding and dangerous hill known as the Black Down, when the fury of one of the severest storms ever known in that locality broke upon him. At one point a crag of rock over one hundred feet high conspicuously rears its head. Near the center of this is a fissure with an overhanging roof of stone under which he found protection, and here while the appalling storm raged without he wrote upon some stray leaves of paper nearly the entire hymn which for more than a century has brought hope and comfort to the weary and afflicted and has been the light of peace to the departing soul.

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THE BUSY BEES OF COMFORT

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE art of flower making," writes Mrs. W. M. Knoer, from Huntland, Tenn., "is studied by very few people, simply because there is no way of learning except through schools where the art is taught, which is too expensive for those who must earn their living. But when once learned one is surprised to find how simple it is. With a pattern and instructions for any one kind of flower one can learn to make it in half an hour.

"As poppies are the simplest, I will give directions for their manufacture. Use bright red wash silk stiffened very little with gum arabic dissolved in water, and dried perfectly straight. Cut the leaves by the design given, which is full sized, of half a leaf for full open flower. Crimp around dotted edge by creasing in thumb and finger. For the center of flower roll one thread of moss green floss silk and two of black wool around the finger once, twist in a little loop a fine wire and fasten it to the wool and silk which should be twisted into a ball first. Around this gum fasten the poppy leaves five or six to each flower. The base of the flower can be made of soft bees' wax and dusted with green powder. The stems can be wound with green silk or paper, or prettier still, use rubber stems which cost but little; leaves can be cut of green silk and if you want them glossy dip the upper side very quickly in melted paraffine. I would like to give more detailed directions of the above as well as of roses, lilacs, snowballs,

hydrangeas, pansies, chrysanthemums, sunflowers, and others, if desired by any of the Bees, and will do so if they will send me stamped envelope for that purpose."

One of the new forms of entertainment is called a Mystery Tea. This is a very good name, for anything more mysterious as to the meanings of the names of eatables on the menu would be hard to find.

Each guest, when seated at table, was handed a card upon which the list of refreshments was written, but in a very peculiar and obscure manner, and the guest was to choose from this list what she would eat. For instance, some one ordered some "very pale ale" and "sour sustenance" and got some water and pickles. Another ordered "an oriental square" and "a little side dish," and got a Japanese napkin and salted almonds. Someone asked for "a gift of the gods" and "an after-dinner delicacy" and got coffee and toothpicks.

One can easily see how a clever hostess can make up a very amusing menu, with a little thought. Of course prizes can be given to those who choose the most appropriate things, for their lunch, from the cards. The menu given at the lunch in question was as follows—the names in parentheses of course not being on the card:

(Sandwiches)
(Coffee)
(Cake)
(Pickle)
(Water)
(Candy)
(Stuffed dates)
(Salted almonds)
(Tea)
(Japanese napkins)
(Toothpicks)
(Ice cream)
(Lemonade)

A product of the desert.
A gift of the gods.
Crushed cereal.
Sour sustenance.
Very pale ale.
Solidified Saccharine.
Toothsome tid-bits.
A little sidedish.
For Russian revels.
An Oriental square.
An after-dinner delicacy.
An Arctic delight.
A tropical fruit drink.



A BATHING CORSET.

Now for an entirely different subject. The corset here illustrated is for sea bathing, and is much more comfortable than to wear

nothing of this kind and to feel the bands from the garments of the bathing suit cutting into the waist. This corset is made of ribbons and the front and back steels, and can easily be made at home; straps may go over the shoulders if desired, but this is not necessary. These corsets being made of one thickness of ribbon are quickly dried, and do not shrink as do those made of cotton. They may be made quite short, using for the front the shortest steel that is in the market. The idea is to keep the skirt band from cutting uncomfortably into the waist, as is so often the case, in order to keep it tight enough.

Many slim people wear this ribbon girdle all the time, instead of a heavier corset, and it is really very comfortable—but of course a stout person could not wear one; it is necessary to put bones in under the arms, of course, if to be worn under the ordinary gown, as the ribbon will wrinkle at that point if not stiffened.

One of the Bees from Brooklyn has suggested a "housewife" for traveling, which she described as follows:

Take a piece of blue denim 16 inches long and 7 inches wide; at the head, sew across the width a piece 3 inches deep and 7 long; then stitch down every 1 3-4 inch space, to hold spools (4 of them) under this fasten a needle book, each leaf to measure 3 by 5 inches. Underneath book, sew two strips of white tape 5 inches long, and fasten spaces to hold scissors; under this make a pocket 3 inches deep and 6 wide, with lap to fasten over with button, and embroider word "Buttons" in white on outside; bind the whole with white tape. Roll up in "Music Roll" style and fasten with button on outside and embroider your name.

A medicine case may be made same as housewife, with only pockets, into which fit the bottles; and a pocket for plaster.

CATARRH CAN BE CURED.

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BEST PAYING THING for Agents is our PHOTO FAMILY RECORDS, OTHER PICTURES, PORTRAITS & FRAMES. Address Dept. E. C. P. CORY & CO. 41 & 45 Jefferson St., Chicago.

COMBINATION OFFER

FREE



Anyone can easily earn a Watch Chain and Charm-ladies' or gents' style—gold plated nickel or silver Watch (not a clock called a watch), gold finished pearl Initial Pin & a 56-piece Tea Set full size, for family use. This Tea Set is beautifully decorated and most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome TEA SET, A GOLD WATCH CHAIN & CHARM with PEARL INITIAL PIN for selling our Bluine and Ink Powder. We mean what we say and will give this beautiful Tea Set, Watch, etc. ABSOLUTELY FREE if you will comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Bluine and Ink Powder, if you agree to sell only 12 packages at 10c. a package, write to-day (SEND NO MONEY) and we will forward the goods prepaid when sold. SEND US the \$1.50 and we send you for selling the 12, one Watch Chain & Charm & a Pearl Initial Pin with any letter you wish together with our offer of the 56-piece China Tea Set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every one in the land and all who receive the Tea Set, Watch, etc., are delighted.

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ONE CENT

is the price of a Postal Card. Buy one, send us your name and address and we'll send you how you can get the most exquisite XMAS PRESENTS for nothing. THE OLYMPIA MFG. CO., 165 E. 25th St., New York.

WE WANT ONE AGENT (man or woman) in every city and county in the United States. No experience necessary, no capital required. We furnish a BIG BOOK of Mackintosh Cloth Samples and Pictures, your name on rubber stamp, tape measure, business cards, all necessary stationery. Everything complete for doing business.

WE are the LARGEST DEALERS in America in Men's and Women's Waterproof Mackintoshes and we sell them at the lowest price ever known, and exclusively through regularly appointed men and women agents, who make \$50.00 to \$200.00 every day.

Cut this notice out and send us. State the territory you wish to work in. Say in your letter you will give this work an immediate trial of at least 10 days, and we will immediately SEND YOU FREE OUR SALESMAN'S COMPLETE OUTFIT on the following easy conditions. Each outfit costs us \$2.00, for it is made very complete to insure immediate success for the agent. The outfit consists of one handsome heavy cloth bound book, 10x12 inches, containing a complete assortment of large samples of our entire line of men's and women's waterproof cloths and waterproof garments, also large fashion figures, etc., one confidential price and instruction book, one tape measure, nearly \$2.00 out of curiosity or just to get the cloth samples we require everyone, after receiving the outfit at the express office, to pay as a temporary deposit 40 cents and express charges, and we will return the 50 cents with your first order. Understand we will send you the complete outfit by express C. O. D., subject to examination, except you are not to pay express fees and if found perfectly satisfactory and you are convinced you can make money taking orders, pay the express agent

START TO WORK AT ONCE. You need no money; show the samples, take the orders at your own price, adding a few cents for postage, we will fill your orders daily, send the mackintoshes on credit, and charge you full retail price. No other work is required.

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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



HIS is the month when the housewife, having relieved her mind of preserves and pickles and the fall cleaning, begins to plan for the Thanksgiving feast. This is no small matter, for it means the early preparation of the mince meat, and later the making of numberless mince pies—as they are in no wise injured from standing, and it is well to get everything made up as far ahead as possible.

In the cold parts of our country, where the winters are long and hard, except in the living rooms, is a scarce commodity, the housewife makes up her mince pies before Thanksgiving for the whole of the winter. These pies are then set out in the back pantry where they are left to be used as needed; frost in no wise injures them, and when one or more are wanted all that has to be done is to bring them into the warm kitchen three or four hours before they are to be eaten, and allow them to get warm gradually; then about half an hour before dinner they are put in the oven to get as warm as one likes. They should be eaten as hot as is comfortable to the mouth, to give forth all their delicious flavor. People who insist upon having their mince pie cold lose a great deal of the best of the pie, as the suet is in cold hard chunks and so the filling lacks the richness that it has when hot and the suet is melted.

Those housewives who are new to the business and like to try new recipes instead of using "Mother's," may perhaps like to try the following one for mincemeat:

Chop fine four pounds, uncooked beef from the round, and two pounds of kidney suet, separately; add twice as much chopped apple as meat, one pound sugar, three cups molasses, two quarts boiled cider, three pounds seedless raisins, the same of currants, a half a pound of sliced citron, the juice of three lemons, one tablespoon each of ground cinnamon and mace, one grated nutmeg, one tea-spoon ground cloves and two tablespoons of salt. Mix thoroughly and set aside over night. Fill the crust without previously cooking the mince. Pies should be baked about an hour. Scald the remainder of the mince and put away in preserve jars. In adding the second quart of boiled cider, take care that the mixture is not too thin. It may not need the whole of the second quart.

Nothing can be better than the old-fashioned New England Thanksgiving dinner, where turkey was the king of the feast, and the edge of the appetite was not taken off by a soup and fish course. However, for people who prefer a course dinner, the following recipe may be acceptable in making the plans ahead.

Oysters on half shell. Lemon. Horse radish. Clam Bouillon. Pickles. Celery. Roast turkey. Giblet gravy. Cranberry sauce.

Baked squash. Mashed potatoes. Chicken croquettes.

Water Cress Salad. French Dressing. Hot Mince and Apple Pie. Squash Pie.

Club House Cheese. Fruit Pudding. Nuts and Raisins. Fruit. Black Coffee.

If clam bouillon is used and cream is a home product, add a cup of same, with additional seasonings, to the hot bouillon, just before serving. It gives a delicious flavor.

CHICKEN CROQUETTES.

Melt one-fourth cup butter, add half cup flour and let cook until frothy; add gradually, stirring constantly, one cup chicken stock and half a cup of thin cream. Season with salt, pepper and celery salt; then add one egg well beaten, and one pint chopped chicken. Let stand until very cold and then shape; roll in fine bread crumbs, cover with a beaten egg diluted with two tablespoons cold water and then roll a second time in the bread crumbs. Fry in deep fat, drain on soft paper, and serve while hot.

The following Thanksgiving menu, for a family of three, may be gotten up for two dollars:

Consonme. Pickles. Roast Chicken. Celery. Cress Salad. Cranberry Sauce. Baked Squash. Mashed Potato. Pumpkin Pie. Cheese. Fruit. Nuts. Coffee.

Where people object to eating left-overs, and there always are some in so small a family—the idea of having a roast stuffed chicken instead of a turkey is a good one, and one chicken in all that is necessary where there are as

many items on the menu as given above. How nice it is to finish up the repast in one day and not feel that there are left-overs that must be eaten the two or three days following the great feast.

We illustrate herewith some of the new Sponge Marguerites, served recently at a luncheon. The recipe says to cut a thin sheet of sponge cake into rounds, by means of a small cookie cutter; spread each round with frosting made of confectioner's sugar, a few drops of vanilla, and hot water to make of the consistency to spread. Then use almonds that have been browned in the oven, for the petals, and put a drop of the frosting in the center.

A new filling for layer cake is made as follows: Boil a cup of sugar and one-third cup of water without stirring, until the syrup threads. Pour in a fine stream onto the white of an egg which has been beaten until foamy but not stiff; add one-fourth pound figs finely chopped and cooked in one-fourth cup water; then add half a cup of walnut meats finely chopped. Beat until cold enough to spread.

RAISIN FILLING.

Cook together slowly one cup seeded and chopped raisins, one cup water and two-thirds cup sugar. When raisins are tender, add one egg beaten slightly, and stir and cook over hot water until slightly thickened. Flavor with lemon, and let the mixture cool before using.

FIG FILLING.

Half a pound of finely chopped figs, one cup water and one-half cup sugar; cook until smooth, stirring constantly. A tablespoonful of lemon juice or half a cup of chopped nuts may be added, if desired.

A SIMPLE EXPLANATION.

SCIENTISTS are often unable to find the cause of natural phenomena, but not so with the simple savage, whose fertile imagination supplies him with an explanation of everything. Take, for instance, the plumage of birds; science has never been able to explain why the peacock and parrot should invariably be clothed in gaudy raiment, and the raven as invariably in somber black. But the Zuni Indians know, and no scientists could

do worse than to accept the explanation that lies in the following Zuni legend:

"In the beginning, the toads of the air were naked like men, having only a few scattered hairs on their bodies for covering; and being ashamed of their nakedness, for a long time they remained hidden. But by and by they assembled in a great medicine council, and prayed Cinahuav (the wolf-god) to give them clothing.

In response it was revealed to them that their coverings were ready, but were a long way off, and that they must either go or send for them.

"Accordingly another council was held, this time to select some bird to go after the plumage, but each found an excuse for not going. Finally At-chi-ala-topa, the turkey-buzzard, volunteered to go; and it being a long journey to the place, he, who before that had been a clean bird, was compelled to eat carrion, therefore his present nature. When he arrived at the place where the coverings were, he at once appropriated to himself the most beautifully colored of them all; but he found that he could not fly in it, so he continued trying on suit after suit until he arrived at the least beautiful one, which fitted him perfectly, and in which he rides so gracefully through the air. He then returned to his companions bearing the feathered garments, and each bird chose the suit that fitted him best."

In confirmation of this story, the Zuni point to the hair-like feathers found on the bodies of all birds.

A POCKET MIRROR.

See yourself as others see you. One of our large imitation aluminum covered pocket mirrors for the boys and girls at school, for the teachers, for men in the woods. Just 5 cents for one with our latest premium supplement.

Golden Moments, Augusta, Maine.

Dipper, Strainer, (coarse and fine) Funnel, Fruit Jar Filler and Clothes Sprinkler combined in one article. Sample free to agents. Other fast sellers. Richardson Mfg. Co., 41 St., Bath, N. Y.

OUTFIT FREE To agents for selling our cut-price Xmas Books \$5 book 16c \$1 book 25c; \$1.50 book 50c; \$2.50 book 75c. CREDIT GIVEN, FREIGHT PAID. FERGUSON PUB. CO. 280 Fifth St. Cincinnati, O.

WE send you 4 beautiful large colored pictures, each 10 x 22, named "Christ in the Temple," "The Angel's Whisper," "The Family Record," "The Life of Christ." These pictures are handsomely finished in 12 colors and could not be bought at Art Stores for 50c each. You sell them for 25c each and send us the money and for your trouble we send you a handsome heavy gold plated ring set with a beautiful brilliant stone which looks exactly like a diamond. This ring is exceedingly handsome and can only be sold from genuine dealers except by an expert. If you sell 3 pictures, we give you a handsome Silver Dish, a beauty. If you sell 12 we give you a nice Watch or a dozen Silver plated Tea Spoons. The watch is carefully plated and guaranteed a good time keeper. The spoons are heavily plated and guaranteed to wear well. Our pictures are works of art and our prizes are valuable. Don't waste time trying to sell rubbish. Take hold of our High-Grade goods and secure some of these valuable prizes. We pay postage. We take back unsold pictures. We run all the risks. Address STANDARD PICTURE CO., 618 Omaha Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

CUT THIS AD. OUT and send to us, and we will send you this BIG NEW-STYLE 100-PIECE VITREOUS WHITE CHINA DINNER SET by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and THE GREATEST VALUE YOU EVER MAIDED OF, we will refund the freight and give you our SPECIAL OFFER PRICE \$5.95 less the \$1.00, or 44% off and freight charges. Freight will average about 50c. for each 500 miles.



MISS MARY ROBERTS.

DRUNKENNESS CURED.

It is Now Within the Reach of Every Woman to Save the Drunkard.

By a new discovery which can be given in tea, coffee or food. It does its work so silently and surely that while the devoted wife, sister or daughter looks on, the drunkard is reclaimed even against his will and without his knowledge or co-operation. Send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 879 Gleno Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio; and he will mail enough of the remedy free to show how it is used in tea, coffee or food and that it will cure the dreaded habit quietly and permanently, also full directions how to use it, books and testimonials from hundreds who have been cured, and everything needed to aid you in saving those near and dear to you from a life of degradation and ultimate poverty and disgrace.

The above is a picture of Miss Mary Roberts, 1033 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, Cal., who successfully cured her brother after he had led a drunkard's life for years. She most heartily recommends Golden Specific to every woman and recommends to do everything in her power to help others save the drunkard.



Our Pinless Clothes Line. A Perfect Line that requires no pins and will not break. Sold only to Agents. PINLESS CLOTHES LINE CO., 100 B Beacon St., Worcester, Mass. Sample mailed for 50c.

IMPROVED LAMP CHIMNEY BRUSH. 14 lbs. Crowds in, fills space, polishes bright. Sample 10c. 1 doz. 6c. postpaid. 3 doz. 11c. 12 doz. 28.50, exp. Agents make big pay. Ill. Cutlery Novelties, Trick, Wigwam Plays Crew. C. MARSHALL, Lockport, N. Y.

EXQUISITE RINGS FREE

We will give a beautiful Solid Gold finished ring warranted to any person who will mail 10 of our beautiful enameled stick Pins at 10c. each. Send name and address and we will mail pins postpaid. You sell them and remit \$1 and we will mail the ring. CLARK & CO., 100 Vinton St., PROVIDENCE, R. I.

\$9.00 Buys a High Arm Sewing Machine

Adapted for light or heavy work. Makes double lock stitch, has self-threading shuttle, 20 Years Guarantee. Without any money advance we will mail to you on 30 days FREE TRIAL, our choice of folding cabinet sewing machines, as illustrated, or our 3.5 or 7 drawer machines, with best solid steel attachments. WE PAY FREIGHT. Buy direct and save agents and dealers' profits. Catalogue Free. Address O. SHEPHERD MFG. CO., 294 E. 23rd St., Chicago.

AGENTS wanted to sell

ANYONE can learn to repair their tinware in fifteen minutes with our new and improved Handy Soldering Set. This new Set has full directions how to work it to the best advantage and you can save enough in one day by using this Set to keep one in Boots and Shoes for six months. Everything necessary to repair all kinds of tinware or used to put up canned fruits, etc., comes with this set and we will send a Set to you free, all charges paid, if you enclose 25c for one yearly subscription. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

WHY PAY MONEY WHEN YOU CAN BUY A DIAMOND RING, here illustrated. Similar looking rings could not be bought of any jeweler for less than \$25. Do you want one for nothing but a few hours of your spare time? We wish to enlarge the sale of this ring, as it is the most unique novelty now on the market, and in order to do so, we agree on receipt of your name and address only, to send you twenty cases of the perfume, WHICH YOU CAN SELL AT FIVE CENTS EACH, and many more. Free by mail. We will not, without asking, sell to anyone under 18 years of age. We have sold the 20 cases at 5c. per case, then remit us \$1.00 and we send you a free present the HANDSOME RING described above. No capital required to start. Send your name & address & we forward a box of 20 cases to you. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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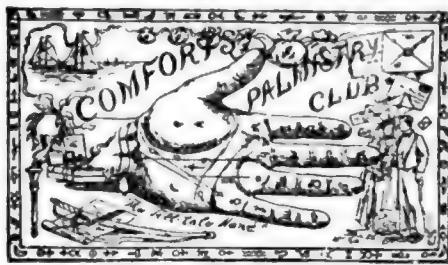
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CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings until the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heatedly coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixative, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be sent, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixative.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

THERE are several hands to be read this month and I will not attempt to answer questions in this number; but I will say to "Anxiety" that her hands were read in the September COMFORT under the first nom de plume she sent, "Despondent."

The same sister wants to have a star defined exactly so that any reader may know it. The star may be a perfect one, formed by the crossing of three lines so as to make six points or ends, or it may be formed of three or four irregular lines crossing each other at the same place; or it may be formed by the junction of two lines with one of the main lines. There is no way of picturing it that would be an infallible guide.

H. C. G. are the initials of a brother who has sent his impressions several times, but who gives no nom de plume. He writes on paper bearing the heading of a coal company in one of the middle southern states. Does he recognize it? He has the hand of a successful business man. He has excellent judgment and the courage of his convictions. When he thinks

something is right or best to do, he goes ahead and does it, regardless of the opinions of other people and generally turns out to be right. He is an ambitious man and will gain the objects of his ambition and will occupy a high position in his community or state and be greatly respected. He will be successful in a business way and will have plenty of money in his old age. He will be very much wrapped up in his business or in his public work during the middle of his career, say from thirty to fifty. He has only one serious love affair in life, although he will be a favorite and much admired by women. The one affair to which I refer comes at an early age, say between eighteen and twenty-five, but it will be broken off in some way, much to his sorrow. I think the girl will gradually grow away from him but he will never care so much for any other. He has a clear, cool head and logical mind. He will succeed in business, either as a lawyer, or as a politician, and as I said before will amass wealth before he is fifty, with fame thrown in. He will be honest and upright even in small matters and will make a true friend to those who are fortunate enough to gain his friendship. On the whole, a fortunate and promising hand.

"Aunt Jane" has a pretty good hand also, though of a very different type. She has good judgment with a taste for the artistic and romantic. She loves novels and poetry, especially of a sentimental kind. With all this she has good sense and an upright mind which makes her highly respected and will be in her favor as long as she lives. She, too, has her own convictions and is not afraid to stand up for them. She will

go ahead and carry out any work which she thinks is good and proper, and not sit and dream impossible things or plan great things for other people to perform. She is courageous and much beloved by her own family and her friends. In matters of the heart she will be steadfast and true to the man she marries. She can always be trusted and she has some pet ambition which she does

not always feel willing to talk about to every one. She will live to about sixty but will not have very good health after she is fifty. She will marry not far from twenty-five and will have only one child that will live to grow up, and he will cause her a great deal of anxiety. She is by nature very nervous, but has learned to control herself in that respect. She will travel somewhat during the latter part of her life, and will have lucky journeys. Her fate-line is better than the average, indicating good luck and the gradual increase of wealth. In her last years she will be more than comfortably well off. She will always be much liked by every one, and if she has any foes will be triumphant over them. She has a talent for teaching and, if she will carefully develop it, a talent for writing; although I fear she will have to develop her bump of patience first. This too, is a fortunate hand; far better than the average.

"Helig L." has a good hand indicating long life and good degree of success in what he undertakes, but he will have to work for it. In his early life he has not had the freedom that he should have had. He has either had to work for his living too early, or his parents have kept him in too close. He will not get over the influence of that until he is twenty-five or thereabouts, but after that he will go on and be quite

lucky in everything. He will live to be eighty or perhaps ninety and there is very little trouble in his palm after he is twenty-five. He is a good friend and a steady reliable fellow who will make a good citizen of his town and state. I do not think he will hold high offices or has any taste for that sort of thing. He has a great deal of tact and knows how to get along with people very well. He too, has some affair of the heart when quite young but he gets over it and will marry happily and rather young. He meets with some discouragement at the beginning of his career in life or when he starts out for himself, but he will come out from that and go right on through life without many obstacles in future. He will make a successful farmer or a good doctor. He is fond of reading, takes an interest in all public affairs and is a good patriot, and is steady and affectionate, a good husband and father. I would like to see more such citizens of our country as he.

"Miss May" has a strictly feminine hand, indicating gentleness and refinement but great nervousness. She is fond of music and pictures and is a good singer or player, or at least might be if she chose. She is fond of admiration, especially from the opposite sex and has a great deal of it. She will be engaged twice but will meet with opposition from her family in these matters which will cause her some disappointment and a great deal of anxiety for a time, but she will finally marry happily and settle down to enjoy life. She should endeavor not to show her feelings too plainly when she likes a young man, as that is her tendency and there is danger that the young man will become tired of her. Her health was delicate in childhood and is not very strong up to her twenty-fifth year, but after that it will improve and she will live to be very, very old. There is a tremendous star near the centre of her hand, which may mean trouble for her, although one cannot always tell. If she were a man and had that star where it is I should say it meant riches at the expense of health. A star is always the sign of something beyond our control, a fatality of some sort. There is much in this hand to indicate riches, but I should say that to this subject at least, they will not bring happiness. It is in some respects a curious hand and if she is ever in the vicinity of Cheiro I should advise her having him read her palms, as there are some characteristics that can be detected in the warm, living hand that do not appear in a plaster cast or in the smoked paper impression.

I am in receipt of more letters asking for the terms of readings, how to take and send impressions etc. These things may all be found in the heading to these articles. Mind you observe all the conditions.

Digitus

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We will send you a pair of these ornate moulded, beautiful gold plated Cameo style Beauty Pins at 25 cents each. Send a short subscription to "COMFORT." Buttons are fast being replaced by these delicate style Beauty Pins and the convex embossed effect produced by a patented machine process which acts on the reverse side of the transparent base gives a magnificent effect when the pin is bent. The pins are all the rage and can be used in place of cuff, collar, waist or dress buttons, or they are beautiful for the hair or hat as well as for round buttons. They make fine bosom pins and you won't miss it if you send us for a year's subscription and get two pair—four pins—free.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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Antique and ruby jeweled works, engraved 20 years, are the best for the money. You should see this great bargain.

WATCH AND CHAIN complete \$4.50 all express charge paid. Cut out and send to us with your name and address, and we will send you C. O. D. for examination before paying a cent. This beautiful 14k gold plated watch is a jewel, with fine chain and set with ruby jeweled works, guaranteed a perfect time-keeper, equal in appearance to any \$5.00 gold watch. Warranted 2 years, with long and strong chain for ladies or men's chain. Just give us your address and we will send you a pair for \$4.50 each and the watch and chain are yours. Mention if you prefer Elgin or Waltham, ladies' or men's size. Address DIAMOND JEWELRY CO., 225 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

NEW DRESS SET, 10c.

A new and beautiful design set including pair of ball end rigid line Cuff Buttons, 8 Studs, 1 Collar Button and New Patent Belt Retainer. Sterling Silver, extra heavy plate. Worth 25c. in any store. Just to give you an inkling of our 1,000 bargains we send complete set and large catalogues postpaid. Only 10c for 26c.

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Also many others selling Ko-Zo Breath Perfume and Throat Ease at 5 cents a package, and our Sachet Powder, the strong and most lasting perfume known, at 10 cents per packet, or you can make a large cash commission. NO MONEY REQUIRED until goods are sold. Send full address and we will send you \$2 worth of goods. 20 packages of Ko-Zo and 10 packages of Sachet Powder, when sold send us the \$2, and we will send you present according to our large illustrated Premium List (which we send with goods) which shows over 200 valuable presents we offer. Our goods sell at sight. All your friends will help you earn a present or cash. NO RISK. WE TRUST YOU and take what you cannot sell. M. L. WASHBURN PERFUME CO., Dept. C. T., 110 Nassau St., New York City.

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\$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.

WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY

In the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor's-for-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES.

We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America. We measure over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the York Exchange, National Bank in Chicago, any Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write to us if it is a secure opportunity, high-grade, big paying employment.

BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging, and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own county \$200 per month and more. Work in the city \$300 per day above all expenses. WE WANT TO ENGAGE YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring. (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats).

We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county; a business better than a store with a \$20,000.00 stock. You will have no competition. MADE TO ORDER.

WE FURNISH YOU

a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suits, Pantaloons, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Advertising, Advertising Letter, and your name and address, ready to mail with a blank Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin to take orders from every one. At your low prices, business is bound to be good, and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at \$1.00 to \$1.50 to \$2.00 to \$2.50.

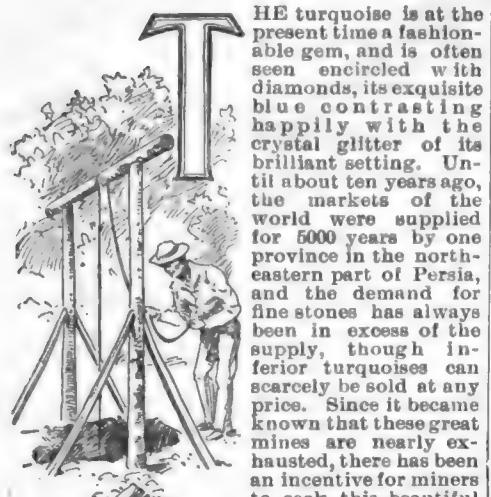
Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

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GENTLEMEN.—In reply to your letter requesting the use of my photograph for advertising purposes, and asking how I am pleased with your work, would say I do not object to you using my photograph as your prices are very low and garments so exact to my measurements that I gladly recommend you. I would add that I have never made less than \$800.00 per month since I received your first outfit, and in the best months have made as high as \$1,000.00 per month. Very truly, E. J. DOYLE.

TURQUOISE MINING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE turquoise is at the present time a fashionable gem, and is often seen encircled with diamonds, its exquisite blue contrasting happily with the crystal glitter of its brilliant setting. Until about ten years ago, the markets of the world were supplied for 5000 years by one province in the northeastern part of Persia, and the demand for fine stones has always been in excess of the supply, though inferior turquoises can scarcely be sold at any price. Since it became known that these great mines are nearly exhausted, there has been an incentive for miners to seek this beautiful gem in other countries.

Discoveries of turquoise-bearing rock were made several years ago in New Mexico and Arizona, by prospectors who opened up shafts and cuts, that evidently had been worked centuries ago by some unknown race. Stone hammers and other rude implements were found buried beneath the surface of the ground; and, in one place, there is a dump 200 feet high, covering several acres, on which trees three or four hundred years old are growing. In Cochise county, Arizona, there is a deposit of green turquoise, showing traces of having been worked long before the occupation of the country by white men.

The most recently opened turquoise mine in America, and the most valuable one as well, is situated in the southwestern corner of Nevada, about thirty-five miles from the Colorado river, and within ten miles of the boundary line between Nevada and California. To reach it, one leaves the Santa Fe transcontinental railway line at a station on the Mojave desert called Blake, and takes a little mixed passenger and freight train that goes three times a week to the gold-mining camp of Vanderbilt, thirty miles to the north, and 5000 feet above the sea, for the camp is closely encircled by mountains. Here a conveyance must be procured for the seventeen-mile drive to the turquoise mines. Their owner had been a gold prospector for years, and had traveled over almost every foot of ground in that elevated portion of the Mojave desert. One day he came across a ledge which he knew to be similar in character to the turquoise rock of New Mexico, with which he was familiar.

After working awhile, he found that large pits had been excavated in the ledge at some remote period, and afterward filled with debris. At the bottom were numerous hammers and stone polishers of primitive construction, and the sides of the excavations were stained by fire. The ancients extracted precious metals and stones from the ledges by the crude method of heating the rock, then throwing cold water on it until cracks appeared, exposing the treasures to view. A well-defined ledge of trachytic porphyry is shown in these claims, and the metamorphic agencies that produced the gems are plainly visible. All through the rock are turquoises of excellent quality. In most of the claims, which are twelve in number, they are found in the form of nodules, each enclosed in a matrix of kaolin or other clayey stuff; in the others, it appears in streaks or small veins. The great Persian mines seldom extend to a depth of more than one hundred feet, but this formation has been so comprehensively exposed by cross-cuts in a gulch below the present workings that it is known to go down



A TURQUOISE MINE.

350 feet, possibly much farther. The mines were discovered in May, 1897, and produced gems the first year which attracted the attention of experts in precious stones. One light blue specimen weighed sixty-four carats, and was the largest turquoise that had been out in America at that time. Another, darker in shade, weighed thirty-two carats; and another, twenty-seven carats. These were thought remarkable by jewelers; but they were eclipsed in 1898 by two gems, each weighing more than 140 carats, which their owner named "Texas," (for his native State), and "Nevada."

The value of turquoises depends on several things besides their size—color, freedom from blemishes, hardness, and susceptibility to polish. The product of this new mine is proving of the first class, and dealers in the large cities of this country and of Europe are glad to handle it. An objection to many turquoises is that they fade out nearly white in a few months after being cut, when the per cent. of water in them has evaporated. Those found in the Nevada mines bear the brand "True Blue," and stand the color test perfectly. This branch of mining is much less expensive than the extraction of gold or silver ore, with all the attendant details of complicated machinery, costly re-

duction works, etc. Two or three trustworthy men, with a few simple appliances, can secure enough gems from the soft talc formation to keep a lapidary busy and yield a handsome profit to the owner of the mines.

Though not classed with the most precious stones, large turquoises of fine quality are valuable. A sixty-carat stone is worth \$4000. Ring stones retail at from \$25 to \$100 each, the price being \$16 a carat. A large proportion of the rough material taken from the ledges is not marketable at any price, but there is always a demand for good stones. There is a great deal of loss in the cutting, when some of the nodules prove too soft, and others fly to pieces on the wheel. All turquoises do not turn out to be gems. Many sham turquoises are in the market. Odontolite—the tooth or bone of the extinct elephant called the mammoth, is preserved in the ice of Siberia and palmed off as turquoise. It emits an odor when heated by which it can be detected. Callainite is another substance that is sold for the genuine article. Though lighter and duller in color than turquoise, it has sufficient resemblance to the real gem to be deceptive.

Centuries ago, turquoises were highly esteemed. The Aztecs almost revered them. None have ever been produced in Mexico, so it is a question whence came the numerous fine specimens that Friar Mancos de Nixa, Coronado, and others found freely used for ornamentation in the southwestern part of this country, in the 16th century. The most reasonable supposition is that they were obtained from the workings in New Mexico, Arizona, and southern Nevada that have recently been reopened. The ambassador sent by Montezuma to Cortez brought four *chachihuitls*, (the Mexican term for turquoises), with him, each of them described as being worth more than "a load of gold," and among the crown jewels of Spain are turquoises of great value that were presented to Charles V. by the ruler of the strange new country across the seas. This gem became known in Europe when Alexander the Great and his soldiers returned from their conquests in Asia, bringing with them many rare jewels. Shakespeare has immortalized it by making Shylock declare that he would not have lost his turquoise ring "for a whole wilderness of monkeys." In 1609, an English writer asserted that no gentleman's elegance was complete unless he possessed a fine turquoise. In Germany, it is the favorite engagement ring.

Superstition surrounds the gem with an atmosphere of good luck, in contrast to the glowing opal. According to an Oriental proverb, "A turquoise given by a loving hand carries with it happiness and fortune."

It is the birthstone of all who were born in bleak December, and for such we have the rhyme,

"If cold December gave you birth,
The month of snow and ice and mirth,
Place on your hand a turquoise blue,
Success will bless whate'er you do."

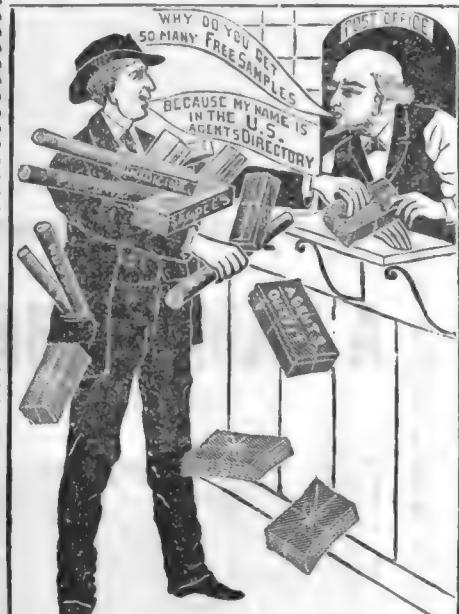
DO YOU PLAY THE VIOLIN?

If so try our new importation of Violin Strings, from one of the best Makers in Europe. Full set of four strings, A. E. G. D. or 4 of any letter for only 10 cents, Stamps or Silver.

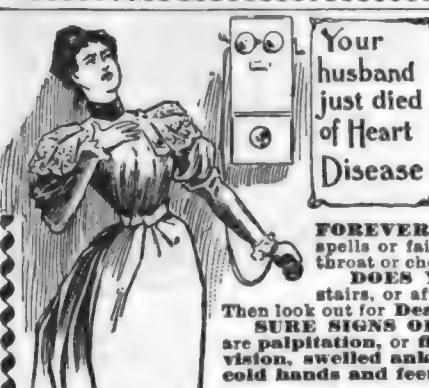
GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

TOBACCO HABIT CURE. Receipt 50 cts. No fake. C. H. ELLSWORTH, Bedden, Del.

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KIDNEY AND BLADDER DISEASES INVARIABLY CURED.

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One great cause of all Kidney and Bladder Diseases is uric acid in blood and urine. This goes surging through the system, destroying tissue and inflaming membranes until some one or more of the following symptoms present themselves: Backache, headache, dizziness, specks floating before the eyes, pain in back of head, neck and in the limbs, sore muscles, swollen ankles or feet, puffiness under eyes, pallid complexion, frequent calls to urinate, attended often with burning pain; nervousness, fickle appetite, loss of energy and ambition. These are some of the many danger signals which nature has set, and you do well to heed them.

DR. BOLES'S SPECIFIC has by its sovereign merit secured thousands of testimonials in its behalf from professional men and the laity, from men and women of all ages and conditions in life, and is recognized as the one remedy that is sure to cure.

DR. D. A. WILLIAMS, 58 BARTON BLOCK, EAST HAMPTON, CONN., the proprietor of this great medicine, is a specialist of established reputation for invincible success in curing these troubles, and a postal card or letter sent to him containing your address will bring at once a trial treatment of the famous cure by mail ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE.

N. B.—To the Old Chronic Case that has tried everything and spent money in vain and to those cases complicated with Female Troubles, Weakness and any Uterine trouble this liberal offer is of great significance and should be taken advantage of in the promptest possible manner.

RHEUMATISM.

I will guarantee to cure the worst case of Rheumatism. I do not ask you to send me one cent. Send me your name and address. Chas. L. Frye, 111 Summer St., Boston, Mass.



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All the Figures of the German and Every New and Fashionable Dance known in Europe or America. The Author is the most celebrated Teacher of Dancing in America, and he has made this Book so Simple and Plain that any child can, by reading it, become a master of the dance without the aid of a Teacher. No other Book on Dancing will compare with this. All the Latin and Fashionable Dances are minutely described by Illustrated Figures from Life, and this Original Method enables persons to learn the舞 by practicing it a very few times, and will have no difficulty in acquiring it. It gives the History of Dancing, Etiquette of the Ball Room, the Opening March and March in Line, the Polonaise and Column Marches, the Position in Quadrille, the Round and Square Dances, and Explaining their Movements, the Variety Quadrille, the Quadrille Star, the Polonaise, the Caledonian, the New Polo Quadrille, the Lancers, the Saratoga Lancers, the Waltz Lancers, the Five Positions, the Modern Waltz, the New Social Waltz, the Redowa, the Redowa Glimmer, the Polka, the Polka Mairurka, the Polka Redowa, the Bohemian Heel and Toe Polka, the Schottische. THE GERMAN—116 Figures, giving the Names and Full Description of each, and how to dance them correctly. It is a book of great value. Price 25 Cents or Three for 50 Cents.

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This Book embraces the Usages and Customs of Good Society, Etiquette, Social Intercourse, Dress, Introduction, Cards, Letters and Presents, Conversation, Morning Calls, Dinners, Balls, Evening Parties, Love, Courtship and Marriage, Riding and Driving, the Promenade, Boating, Staying with Friends, etc. It teaches how to act in emergencies, or in society without embarrassment, and how to avoid incorrect and vulgar habits, in Society, at Home, or in Society. It is a Perfect Guide to New Business in a fashionable life. Parents should purchase this Book, and keep it where their Sons and Daughters can easily refer to it. It is a Text Book of Gentility. It will bring out the true qualities of a Lady or Gentleman, even if you were born in the backwoods. Price 25 Cents, or Three for 50 cents.

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Quadrille Sociale, the Waltz Quadrille No. 1 and 2, the National Guard Quadrille, the Caledonian, the Waltz Lancers, the Lancers, the Saratoga Lancers, the Waltz Lancers, the Five Positions, the Redowa, the Redowa Glimmer, the Polka, the Polka Mairurka, the Polka Redowa, the Bohemian Heel and Toe Polka, the Schottische. THE GERMAN—116 Figures, giving the Names and Full Description of each, and how to dance them correctly. It is a book of great value. Price 25 Cents or Three for 50 Cents.

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Young Americans Letter Writer.

Or the New Art of Polite

Holland, Its Dykes, Dunes, Canals and Polders.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE existence of Holland today is due to the unceasing struggle of its people to hold that which they have won from the sea by centuries of toil. Winds, waves and grasping neighbors have tested the right of possession with the Hollanders; undismayed, they have continued to pile up ridges of mud, strength-ened them by the interlacing fibres of the roots of the willow and poplar trees, and driven millions of piles through the soft morass to reach the firmer soil beneath.

Upon these artificial mounds they built cities and ships to sail from them, originating a commerce which brought wealth and luxury to Holland. Sea walls were constructed, dykes constantly lengthened and strengthened, morasses, lakes and abandoned peat beds drained, a remarkable network of canals furnished communication throughout the country as a once worthless marsh was brought into a condition of extraordinary fertility. It would be well-nigh impossible to find a more sublime picture of patient toil resulting in final triumph, than in the Hollanders' contest with the sea. Eight hundred years ago Holland contained but 800 square miles; the present area is nearly 13,000 square miles, with a dense population of about 5,000,000.

As the larger portion of the land lies below the level of the sea, the dykes and dunes are of the greatest importance in preserving it from the encroachments of the sea, while the canals, windmills and sluices are other features of the elaborate system which prevents the long-baffled waves from engulfing the low lying cities and plains. The dunes or sand hills are formed by the action of winds and waves, while the dykes are a credit to the persevering industry of the plodding Hollanders. These dunes rise on the north coast from thirty to one hundred and thirty feet, and cover and uncover large areas as the winds blow the sand from point to point. These white hills are a fit supplement to the ghostly fogs, the gray, misty atmosphere and other characteristic features of this quaint land.

Many dykes are embankments of earth, clay and sand, held together by the roots of trees that line them or a kind of coarse grass that is planted for that purpose. Others are of the most substantial masonry; hundreds of miles of such have been constructed along the north coast from 25 to 40 feet high and 20 to 30 feet wide at the top. Sometimes wagon roads are laid out on the top of a dyke or a railroad built there giving to the traveller an incomparable view of the "Hollow Land." On the one side the gray North Sea beats against the strong wall that holds it back, and on the other stretches away thrifty Holland with its fertile fields, grazing herds, busy canals, countless windmills, picturesque villages and prosperous cities.

In Friesland alone two hundred miles of the coast is dyked; at one point three rows of piles forty or fifty feet in length have been driven down for sixty miles, then strengthened by great timbers brought from Norway, spiked and banded with iron.

The coast at Helder is exposed to the sweep of the entire North Sea, and to protect it in 1819-1825, the famous Helder dyke was constructed of Norway granite; it is five miles long, from twelve to fifteen feet wide, and the massive bulwarks that hold it in place extend 200 feet into the water. During a storm the waves dash furiously against this barrier, often rising twenty feet above the level of the land it guards. Another upon the island of Walcheren is built of clay, sand, stones and wood, which is noted for its strength and solidity; it is maintained at an annual cost of \$30,000.

The hundreds of miles of dykes belong to the Dutch government, which expends \$3,000,000 annually in keeping them in good condition. A corps of engineers known as "De Waterstaat," have especial care of the dykes, also of the elaborate system of drainage, by means of the numerous canals, which serve many useful purposes. They drain the country, take the place of fences or hedges and furnish means of communication throughout the land. One of the two principal canals extends from Amsterdam to the Helder, a distance of 46 miles; this is 130 feet wide and twenty feet deep. The North Sea Canal is fifteen miles long, reaching from Amsterdam to the east coast, and is from two to three hundred feet wide. Both of these are provided with immense sluice gates and cost enormous sums.

Not only is the incoming of the sea to be guarded against, but the rivers and lakes are a constant menace. For instance, when the spring rains come in Germany and the heavy snows melt, the Rhine brings down a vast volume of water, which would submerge the whole land without the utmost vigilance. Three immense locks with five, three and two gates have been constructed to control the flow of the waters, if these sluice gates are opened at low tide and the rapid rush of water carries away the sand which has accumulated at high tide, so that the waters can make their exit to the sea.

Night and day, the dykes are guarded by watchmen, whose duty it is to see that not the slightest orifice appears to give entrance to the water, as it would enlarge minute by minute, hour by hour until a great chasm would be made, through which a mighty, rushing flood would overwhelm the land. Their past history has taught the necessity of such constant care; no country has suffered as Holland has from inundations which have drowned thousands of inhabitants, destroyed villages and towns, and permanently submerged great tracts of land. A willful injury to a dyke is accounted a crime, and is punished according to the degree of the offence, by a fine, imprisonment, or, in some aggravated cases, by death. Such extreme measures are of the past; stringent laws, and an enlightened public opinion suffice at this present time.

Another work of the government is reclaiming land that has been submerged for centuries; these lands are called *polders*, and possess some advantages; the soil is rich, not requiring an artificial stimulant, and as they lie below the level of canals and rivers, the fields never suffer from drought. There are a number of these *polders*, but the most important one at this

time is the Haarlem. An inundation in the sixteenth century united small lakes near Amsterdam, into one, the Haarlem Lake. This was eighteen miles long, nine wide, with an average depth of twelve feet. At high water it invariably overflowed its banks, but in 1836 the destruction of Amsterdam and other cities was threatened, and the government decided to dyke and drain it. The work was completed in 1850, and though it cost more than a million of dollars it has well repaid the expenditure, furnishing homes for 10,000 inhabitants upon fertile farms, where there are the most productive gardens in all Holland.

This was a marvelous feat of engineering skill, but Holland is preparing for a more gigantic one, the draining of the Zuyder Zee. This great gulf only came into existence at the time of a destructive flood in the thirteenth century, and its average depth is only eleven feet. The Haarlem Lake gave back 45,000 acres of land, this will give 500,000. The design is to divide the Zee into four parts, build great dykes, and from one portion after the other, gradually pump out the water, leaving a lake in the centre of the new polder, connected by canals with the other great canals, completing a system of water ways navigable for large ships. The project is colossal; its execution will require thirty years and the estimated cost is \$50,000,000.

When the task is finished, Holland will have 800 square miles more of territory adding to her national wealth twelves times the sum expended; at the same time she will have demonstrated anew to the world the courage and moral greatness of a people, who under such natural disadvantages possess the patience, perseverance and skill necessary to compel the waters to give back the lands which they engulfed hundreds of years ago.

Women who suffer with ailments peculiar to their sex, from stooping shoulders, weak back and general ill-health or lack of strength and vitality, will be interested in the advertisement of The Natural Body Brace in another column. Husbands and friends of such women will be interested in it also. The company's high standing and pleasing business methods are vouches for by the leading banks throughout the country and by many thousands of customers. Satisfaction is guaranteed by the fact that the full purchase price is refunded to any one not pleased after 30 days' trial. The Brace is comfortable and invigorating. It brings light step, graceful figure, and good health. It enables a weakly woman to walk, work, ride a bicycle, play tennis or golf, with ease and pleasure. It is free from all the objectionable features of other supports and treatments. It does away with pessaries. We suggest that you read the advertisement and write at once for free book and full particulars.

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1 Package Developer, 1 Package Silver Paper, 1 Set Directions, Fixing Powder, 1 Package Ruby Paper.

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These Watches are small size, and are fully timed, regulated and guaranteed for one year the same as an Elgin or Waltham watch.

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YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK.

WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness, feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? Is your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.

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THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address, G. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine.

AN OBLITERATED TRAGEDY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE world has seen few tragedies more pathetic than that which culminated when Mary Queen of Scots was executed. Is it merely a coincidence that today, of Fotheringhay Castle, the powerful fortress in which the Queen was beheaded, only one stone remains, and that in all Great Britain no drawing or likeness of the castle can be found?

There is an old legend, current all over England, that when, after the execution of Queen Elizabeth, James of Scotland, Queen Mary's son, became king of Eng-

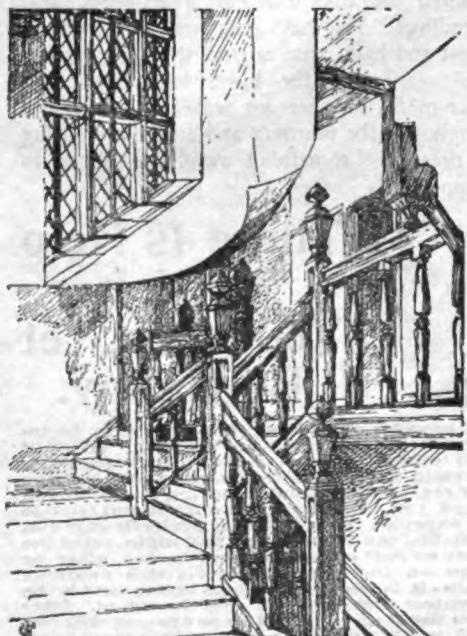
land, he cursed the castle of Fotheringhay, in which his mother had suffered such an awful death, and commanded that it be blotted off the face of the earth.

Not long ago I spent several weeks at Oundle, an English town two miles from the site of Fotheringhay, and found it interesting to study on the ground itself the history of this spot. Fotheringhay today consists of a tiny village of stone cottages clustered near one of the oldest and quaintest churches in all England. Past the village flows the river Nene, a narrow but deep and sluggish stream. Travelers coming from the south cross the Nene here by an old stone bridge called the "Perio Bridge." Just as this bridge connects Fotheringhay to the southern country so its name links the life of today with the troubled times of Mary and Elizabeth.

It is said that through all the weary years of Mary's imprisonment, before she came to Fotheringhay, she never lost the hope that Queen Elizabeth would eventually pardon her. Six months before her death a royal order came for her to be transferred to Fotheringhay, and she was brought there under guard. Just as the cavalcade reached the bridge over the Nene, a horn was heard to sound not far away. Mary declared that this was a courier coming from the Queen with her pardon, and commanded that her retinue be delayed. Her wish was granted, but after a little delay it was learned that the horn was only that of a huntsman in the forest. When this information was brought to her Mary exclaimed in Latin, which language she spoke fluently, "Perio," which means "I perish." And ever since this has been called the "Perio Bridge."

A huge mound of sand beside the river marks the site of the castle. From the top of this mound it is possible to trace the outlines of the walls and moat which defended the castle. The river Nene was the chief protection on one side. Thistles grow on the mound now, and the damp places which were the moat are masses of forget-me-nots. The sandy mound is honey-combed with rabbit burrows, and even now the energetic legs of these animals sometimes kick out a bit of human bone. Of the castle itself only one stone remains, a big, shapeless rock, weighing several tons, down by the river side.

Romantic as is the legendary reason given for the disappearance of the castle I hardly think, myself, that it is true. It seems more probable that after Queen Mary's death the property changed hands several times, in the wars which followed, and that it was neglected until it was in such poor repair that it was not judged worth restoration. As a result it was sold piecemeal to any one who wanted to buy building material, both wood and stone, until in the course of a hundred years or so all of it was carted away except this one rock, too heavy to be moved intact and of too little value to be quarried. The Talbot Inn, at Oundle, a quaint old hostelry of stone, is said to have been built of material brought from Fotheringhay, and there seems to be good reason to think the rumor true. A superb old oak staircase in the Inn came from the castle, and was undoubtedly the one down which Queen Mary went to her death. I used to stand at the head of these steps, and closing my eyes, imagine that I heard the sweep of the Queen's black velvet gown as the mournful little procession went down to the great hall of the castle.



STAIRCASE DOWN WHICH MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS WENT TO HER DEATH.

Mary was confined at Fotheringhay for the last six months before her execution. It is said that during this time she sowed the seeds of some Scottish thistles sent her, and that the thistles now growing on the castle's site are the result. I do not know that this is so. I only know that the thistles are there, and that the variety is one which is not at all common in that part of England. I dug up a plant and

brought it carefully home and set it out in the garden, where, at last accounts it was growing finely.

We who in America can look upon so few monuments of tragic history stand almost appalled on ground like Fotheringhay. The very site itself probably marks scene of battle, since historians say that the mound on which the castle stood is of artificial construction, built there by the Angles and Danes as a vantage ground from which to defend a ford by which the river was crossed at that point before the bridge was built. The first castle on the spot was built by Simon de St. Liz, who had married a great niece of William the Conqueror. It was almost always royal property, and almost always seemed to bring a curse upon its owner.

One of the first owners of Fotheringhay was Mary of Valence, that unhappy Countess of Pembroke whose husband, married to her only an hour before, was killed at a tournament held to celebrate their wedding. She lived all her life-long widowhood at Fotheringhay and when she died devoted her whole fortune to founding Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, to her husband's memory. Her successor was that Duke of York who was smothered in his armor at the battle of Agincourt. This man's brother Duke of Cambridge, who succeeded him, was beheaded on a charge of conspiracy against King Henry V. The son of the last named owner, another Duke of York, was killed at the battle of Wakefield Green, and his twelve-year-old son was killed with him. This death sent another unhappy widow, the Duchess Cecily, to live for thirty-six years at Fotheringhay, until her own death occurred. While there she had to mourn the cruel death of her two grandsons, the two little Princes in the Tower, and to have only too good reason to fear that their murderer was their own uncle and her son, evil Richard III, who, very fittingly, had been born at Fotheringhay.

Many of these semi-royal personages are buried in or around the old church, and I deciphered on the end of the stone communion table there this inscription: "Sissily, Duchess of York, Daughter to Raulfe Nevell, first Earl of Westmoreland."

Early in the reign of King Henry VIII he settled Fotheringhay Castle upon his first queen, Catherine of Aragon, who repaired it at great expense, and seems to have been fond of some of her successors, proposed to make the castle Queen Catherine's prison. Then she declared that she would never go there again unless "bound with a halter rope." Eventually, though, she was buried at Peterborough Cathedral, only ten miles from Fotheringhay.

Is it any wonder that Mary, Queen of Scots, when she learned that Fotheringhay was to be her destination said that she saw written over the castle gate, "Abandon hope all ye that enter here?"

FREE HAIR FOOD.

All who wish to be cured of dandruff, save their hair and grow more should send name, age and full address, with small lock of hair extracted from roots (5 or 6 hairs sufficient), and a statement of the present condition of scalp to THE CRANITONIC HAIR FOOD CLINIC, 526 West Broadway, New York, and you will get a free bottle, by mail prepaid, with full directions for use, and a free report on the condition of your hair, after a scientific microscopic examination has been made in the Cranitonic Laboratories, the only Hair and Scalp Clinic in America devoted to the study of hair and scalp diseases.

Vienna's oldest painter, Rudolf Abt, has been voted a pension of \$480 a year.



CURE FITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

Prof. W.H. PEEKE, F.D., 4 Cedar St., N.Y.

A Gold-Lined Silver Dish FREE!

To introduce our new line of gold plated silverware we will for 30 days send either one of these beautiful gold lined fluted top quadruple plates and dishes FREE to any one sending a club of two yearly subscribers to SUNSHINE at 25c. each, or send both dishes, all charges paid, for a club of three at 25c. each. These goods are made up in the latest 1899 style, are guaranteed to wear well, as they are the best quality plate. The very lowest store price of either article is not less than \$1.00 or \$1.50, and as these beautiful articles can be used for all sorts of eating, dining or side tables, they make invaluable household necessities as well as beautiful ornaments. We will for a short time send either style dish free to all who send 3c. for a year's subscription, or will send both dishes, all charges paid, if you remit 62c. for a two years' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great home monthly. Don't delay but send at once. We can quote you wholesale rates on our new Premium goods that will get you rich. SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

SENT FREE TO MEN

A Discovery for Lost Manhood Sent Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write for It.

G. B. WRIGHT WAS RESTORED TO HEALTH AND MAKES A GENEROUS OFFER.

Geo. B. Wright, a merchant and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years offers to send the medical prescription that effected the



cure to every reader of COMFORT who is suffering today as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge. As certain as a wound leaves a scar, and as sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no tell-tale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of desperation, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form—quack doctors—who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money, plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate these horrors of lost

manhood except he who has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he who knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was effected in the person of Geo. B. Wright, a music dealer and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical powers go from him as the result of insidious disease until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

He asserts that his 10 years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to undoubted joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will not only brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself but will restore the parts to their original size and vigor.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him but little to do so, and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, Box 811, Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

A PRIZE

WE ASK NOT ONE CENT



FOR EVERY CORRECT ANSWER

IN making this marvellous offer, we have no desire to pose as benefactors. It is a business transaction to introduce CANDIED CRUSHED CARNATIONS, a delicious and fragrant breath perfume, and all who are awarded a Fountain Pen we require to distribute for us among friends 25 Sample Packages. In order that these may not be received by unappreciative people, we require you to collect 5 cents for each sample, and as this is to advertise, we send a PRIZE TICKET FREE with every package, which entitles each purchaser to a handsome piece of jewellery, which will not cost less than the Breath Perfume. After distributing the 25 Packages and Prize Tickets, you return our \$1.25, thus fulfilling your agreement. We then give you for this service, free, and in addition to the

Fountain Pen awarded you in the first place, a Solid Gold Shell Ring, beautifully engraved, and all who answer this within three days from when seen first, we send with ring, ALSO free, a Simulative Diamond, Ruby and Saphire Stick Pin.

To such we say it is certainly worth investigating. The risk is nothing. WE ASK NONE OF YOUR MONEY. We are liberal enough to offer inducements to stimulate our industries never attempted by any similar firm, and we simply ask you to interpret our puzzle and send your Address. We award you the Fountain Pen and send, postage paid, 25 Sample Packages of Breath Perfume. Distribute them as instructed, and we give you also the Solid Gold Shell Ring and Pin. Nothing could be more fair. Persons alive to their own interests should avail themselves of this great offer at once.

NATIONAL SUPPLY CO., 46, 48 & 50 West Landis St., DETROIT, MICH. MENTION THIS PAPER.

\$1,000 IN CASH PRIZES

By your Fruits you shall be Rewarded. We will divide One Thousand Dollars among those who arrange correctly the ten groups of letters into the names of Ten Well Known Fruits. For example: TOPARIC is APRICOT. Can you solve the rest? If so you will get your share of One Thousand Dollars, payable Dec. 30, '99. For instance, if ten correct answers are received each receives One Hundred Dollars. If one hundred correct answers are received each receives Ten Dollars, and so on. This is the only fair and square way of awarding prizes to the ten best. The One Thousand Dollars is sufficient to give one well for their distribution.

NO MONEY OR CONDITIONS ASKED. We do not ask a penny in this fair and square contest as we have nothing to sell, only wish to introduce our magazine into new homes and know that by advertising. One Thousand Dollars in cash prizes it will advertise us. Our magazine is long established and full of interesting reading and is published by women for women and the home circle. Although unsuccessful before, this time you may win a fortune. The money will positively be given away and you can succeed with a little study and no expense. Write immediately, distance makes no difference. We will send you cash award check if correct by return mail. Address WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, New York City.

WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to incuse our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us \$1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us \$1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



INTER reigns when the Sun reaches his greatest southern declination, as he passes into the sign Capricorn. This occurs this year at about 12 minutes before 8 o'clock in the evening of the 21st day of December, when the last degree of the sign Aries will be on the midheaven and the 10th degree of the sign Leo will be rising in the east. Neptune will be the only heavenly body of the Solar System that will be above the Earth, though

the Moon will make its appearance above the eastern horizon soon after 9 o'clock of the same evening.

The figure erected for the time at Washington, the seat of government, shows Mercury,

Herschel, Saturn, the Sun and Mars all within the bounds of the 5th house; Jupiter will be in the 4th;

Venus in the 6th; the Moon on the cusp of 2nd,

and Neptune in the 11th house.

The sun is ruler of the scheme and is in trine with the Moon, but besieged by the malefics Saturn and Mars in the 5th near the cusp of the 6th house;

which indicates unusual prevalence of diseases involving the lungs and liver; cold will be the primary cause of disease and mortality will be greater than usual from pneumonia, consumption, typhoid fever, gout and rheumatism. Unusual precautions should be taken in these directions.

The malefics all in the 5th house does not promise favorably for hotels, theaters, and public schools.

Indeed, some serious catastrophe involving loss of human life and injury to persons from fire or panic is apprehended, and school authorities and parties engaged in catering to public entertainment should be particularly guarded in care of those temporarily under their charge.

Some bad eruptive trouble among children is likely and violent disorder or riot in northwestern sections or among the Indian tribes.

The Executive authorities are likely to be kept busy in northwestern regions of the country where clash of arms is threatened over international questions. The favorable aspects of the Moon with the Sun, Saturn, and Mars and all with the Midheaven of the figure, with Jupiter angular gives very favorable indications for progress and growth of the Nation and her importance among the Nations of the world. Two Eclipses fall within the limits of the month of December, an annual eclipse of the Sun on the 2nd and a partial eclipse of the Moon on the 16th of the month. The eclipse of the Sun is not visible in this country, but is to be seen in the south polar region and in New Zealand and Southern Australia; indicative of some unusual physical phenomena and changes with disturbances of a political nature. It falls in the sign Sagittarius and near to the malefics in the 5th and 6th house, and in the sign ruling Spain and Hungary; and troubles in those countries continue to come. The partial eclipse of the Moon on the 16th is visible in the United States and generally in both America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The portents of these eclipses falling so near the congress of so many of the heavenly bodies indicates marked physical and political changes in the world at large, both as to rulers and governments.

All of the figures emphasize the suggestions already given as to the classes of diseases to be guarded against and as to schools, hotels and theaters.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER, 1899.

DECEMBER. 1—Friday. Begin early and improve every moment of this day, particularly for money ventures; buy goods for trade and deal with officers of large corporations, judges, and those engaged in the ecclesiastical callings; seek money accommodations, adjust accounts, and deal with persons of wealth and status.

2—Saturday. This day has but little to recommend it and the pursuit of routine matters only is recommended.

3—Sunday. The first two-thirds of this day are peculiarly adapted for intellectual engagements and for converse with the philosopher and mathematician; the late afternoon and evening are forbidding and caution is given that strife and contention be studiously avoided; extra care should be had in handling inflammables and explosives for fires and explosions are likely to be more numerous and destructive than usual in these passing weeks; look out also for hurts from animals and machinery.

4—Monday. The middle hours of the day are the best, particularly for literary labors and dealings with persons in such callings; also with artists, dramatists, and in commercial enterprises concerned with the artistic or decorative in life.

5—Tuesday. Urge all affairs of an honorable nature; have money dealings, consult lawyers, judges, clergymen, bankers, and persons of wealth or who are employed about monied institutions.

6—Wednesday. Push business to the utmost on this day with eccentric characters and with government officers in the afternoon when also change residence and travel. The time is quite unfavorable for persons born about the 15th of March or June or 18th of September or December, of past years, and the majority of such persons, if of mature age, are now in the midst of trying influences and will seem to be baffled in nearly all their undertakings; they should be particularly careful in these winter weeks of their health, avoiding exposure to inclemency weather as much as possible and seeing that coughs and colds are not neglected. Many of these are in the midst of strife or litigation and are cautioned against rashness in any of their acts; they should take care that they are not injured physically through their own carelessness.

7—Thursday. Choose the early hours for literary pursuits and mental labors; do important correspondence, and push thy business; make written applications for favor from officers of state and persons in authority; engage servants in the forenoon and deal with printers, booksellers, and intellectual people.

8—Friday. Usurers have a day of profit and advantage, and thou shouldst be wary with thy purse, being sure not to buy goods for any speculative venture; have care in extending credit and see that money is not lost through carelessness.

9—Saturday. Defer important correspondence and avoid business with officers of the government or persons in authority; do not execute any contract, nor travel unnecessarily.

10—Sunday. Bridle your tongue during the forenoon hours lest quarrels come; the mind at this time will specially incline towards the curious in science, art, and mechanism and ingenious, new and unusual ideas are born and peculiar doctrines become attractive; give preference to the afternoon for all mental efforts and for engagements in connection with the world of letters.

11—Monday. Be in no haste to begin any of the elegant pursuits in the morning hours when matters of taste are not favored; see that the inclinations are not extravagant and keep the expenditures under close scrutiny; the mind conceives peculiar and unusual ideas, notions, whims, and inventive capabilities are quickened; the latter part of the day is best for dealing with judges and officers of rank.

12—Tuesday. Choose this day for transactions concerning real estate; deal with the contractor, plumber, ship-builder, miner, machinist, manufacturer, chemist

and cattle trader; inaugurate new business connected with machinery or in the nature of manufacture or construction, masonry, excavation, etc.

13—Wednesday. The afternoon is the best part of this day, especially for literary labors or engagements, matters of account or collections, and for commercial contracts pertaining to fancy goods, dress materials, jewelry and all articles of adornment; seek pleasure from the musical or dramatic entertainment in the evening.

14—Thursday. Do not purchase anything for profit on this day and have care that extravagant inclinations are held well in check.

15—Friday. This day is evil and little if any prosperity is likely to attend important undertakings now begun; it is better to save the energies at this time letting the day pass as best. It may and resting quietly until a more opportune time; avoid landlords and make no contract with laboring classes.

16—Saturday. Partial Eclipse of the Moon. Conditions are quite unfavorable for any move of an initiative character, especially if concerned with houses or lands; seek no favor from thine employer or from persons in authority. The time is unfavorable for persons born about the 25th of February, 28th of May, 30th of August, or 28th of November of past years, as they are likely at this time to have some mental anxiety over writings, contracts, or matters of account or have nervous or mental excitement or baffling annoyances in their affairs. On the other hand, most of those born about the 28th of January, 27th of March, 29th of July or September, of past years, are likely to be having more profitable and agreeable correspondence, effect more satisfactory business arrangements or contracts, and should improve the time for beginning studies or making important intellectual engagements.

17—Sunday. Seek nothing but rest and quiet during all of this day though the evening hours are to be preferred over the other parts of the day.

18—Monday. A fair day, though it cannot be recommended for the beginning of any very important undertaking; the elegant pursuits are particularly opposed; do not purchase any articles of dress or decoration and be not surprised if little progress is made in any artistic pursuits.

19—Tuesday. Improve every moment of this day; the merchant, traveller and all engaged in monetary affairs, banking, or in the literary pursuits are favored on this day; buy goods for trade; make application to officers of large corporations or government officials for favors; travel and change residence.

20—Wednesday. Peculiarly appropriate during the forenoon hours for engagements pertaining to patents, trade-marks, or any kind of patented wares; urge the literary pursuits early in the day.

21—Thursday. An excellent day; bargain for houses and lands, make contracts for their improvement and deal with aged persons and the agricultural classes.

22—Friday. Be early astir for urging the chemical and mechanical pursuits and dealings in metals and machinery; consult thy dentist; travel; and trade in cattle, hardware and cutlery; the evening is adverse for literary work and mental processes; correspondence is best postponed.

23—Saturday. Urge all undertakings of a scientific, literary or artistic nature and press all general business.

24—Sunday. The day after the morning abounds in benevolence, being especially conducive to religious fervor and inviting communion with the poet, musician and artist and giving special appreciation of the beautiful in religion, nature, and art.

25—Monday. Christmas. Be not impatient in the morning, and as the forenoon advances be active in all literary matters or in removal or travel.

26—Tuesday. Consult and ask favors of aged persons; deal in houses and lands and the produce thereof and make contracts with builders, masons, miners, farmers, plumbers, and persons generally in the laborious callings.

27—Wednesday. The elegant and artistic pursuits are not favored in the morning, when no purchases of wearing apparel or artistic goods will be satisfactory; seek favor or promotion from public officers or those in authority during the middle hours of the day.

28—Thursday. The forenoon of this day especially encourages all mechanical and chemical pursuits also dealings with cutlers, tailors, policemen, military men, surgeons, and all workers and dealers in glass or metals; as the day advances let every energy be devoted to the prosecution of literary work; make engagements with printers, or publishers; execute contracts; do most important correspondence and begin thy journeys.

29—Friday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with unabated zeal, particularly during the forenoon; purchase goods for trade and deal with clothiers, wool-dealers, judges, counsellors, and all persons in the legal profession.

30—Saturday. Give the bulk of thine energies to the pursuit of thy literary engagements; deal with printers, booksellers, and mathematicians.

31—Sunday. The year closes with a very evil day when no matter of importance should be inaugurated in connection with church affairs.

To Cure Piles and Female Diseases. I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

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a plain, common sense book on health, disease, love, marriage and parentage, by a popular medical authority of N. Y. It has 350 well illustrated pages about what all men and women need to know. We will mail it on approval for 5 cents postage to any responsible person who will either mail back the book or 20 cents. Or, 20 cents with order gets it.

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IT CURES DRINKING
I have found a positive cure for drunkenness. Can be given secretly. Will gladly tell you what it is. MRS. MAY HAWKINS, L. U. 131, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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A harbinger of good fortune and a dispeller of evil, made from a genuine Horse Shoe Nail, nickel plated and finely finished, sent free with the new mammoth catalogue of over 3,000 Bargains for 6c. to cover postage

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING CO., Dept. H, 170 Elm St., New York City.

Women Made Beautiful
by VESTRO. Develops the bust 6 inches, fills all hollow places, adds grace, curve and beauty to the neck, softens and clears the skin. Beautiful women every day are turning to VESTRO. Handsome, permanent. NEVER FAILS. Every lady should have this unrivaled developer. Adds charm and attraction to plainest women. Full particulars, photos, testimonials, etc., sealed for two cent stamp. Address AURUM MEDICINE CO., Dept. A, N. 55 State St., Chicago.

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Thousands of Rescued Sufferers from Lost Manhood unite in Praise of CALTHOS.

An Offer Every Sufferer Will Be Sure to Accept.

NO C. O. D., OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.

Read carefully this announcement made by one of the greatest and richest importing firms in the United States. Heed the wise words written here, and accept the generous offer made you. You have the opportunity to be restored once more to robust health and happiness. Accept it now. Do not put it off until it is too late. Since the introduction in this country of CALTHOS, the great French preparation for Lost Manhood, the Von Mohl Company, of Cincinnati, O., has achieved marvelous results. More than 100,000 cures have been made the past year.

Before Prof. Jules Laborde, the famous French Specialist, brought his discovery, CALTHOS, to the knowledge of the world, the best physicians denied that any medicine known to science could restore the vital forces of men, if once lost through overwork, abuse, or excesses. CALTHOS is the greatest sensation in the medical world today. The cures made by CALTHOS (many of the cases of years at a time) have attracted the attention of medical men everywhere. The National Medical Board has recommended the remedy for use in Insane Asylums, where, as well known, a majority of the male inmates are victims of lost manhood in its most terrible form, brought on by abuses and youthful error. In Europe the remedy is endorsed by the French and German governments, and is used as a specific in the great standing armories of those countries, and generally in all the famous Sanitariums and Retreats of the Old World.

The Von Mohl Company has decided that every man in America who is suffering from Lost Manhood, shall have the opportunity to try out this wonderful remedy CALTHOS in his own individual case. For that purpose they have recently imported 100,000 special 5-day treatments, to give away as a trial, free of any charge whatever. If you suffer from Lost Manhood, Varicose, Weakness of any nature in the Sexual Organs or nerves, (no matter how caused), or if the parts are undeveloped or have shrunken or wasted away.

CALTHOS is put before you on its merits alone. Put it to the test, try it free. There is no security required. No C. O. D. or Deposit scheme.

Send us your name and address, and the Von Mohl Co. will send you enough "CALTHOS" to last five days. IT WILL BE SENT IN A SEALED PACKAGE BY MAIL. In the quiet of your home you can try it and see what it does.

All correspondence relating to the "CALTHOS" department of our business is strictly confidential. We neither publish nor furnish testimonials. Address applications for trial treatment to

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THE WIZARD of the WEST.

Prof. S. A. Weltmer of Nevada, Mo., Who Heals Disease Without the Aid of Drugs or the Surgeon's Knife, Compared With the Healing God of 292 B. C.

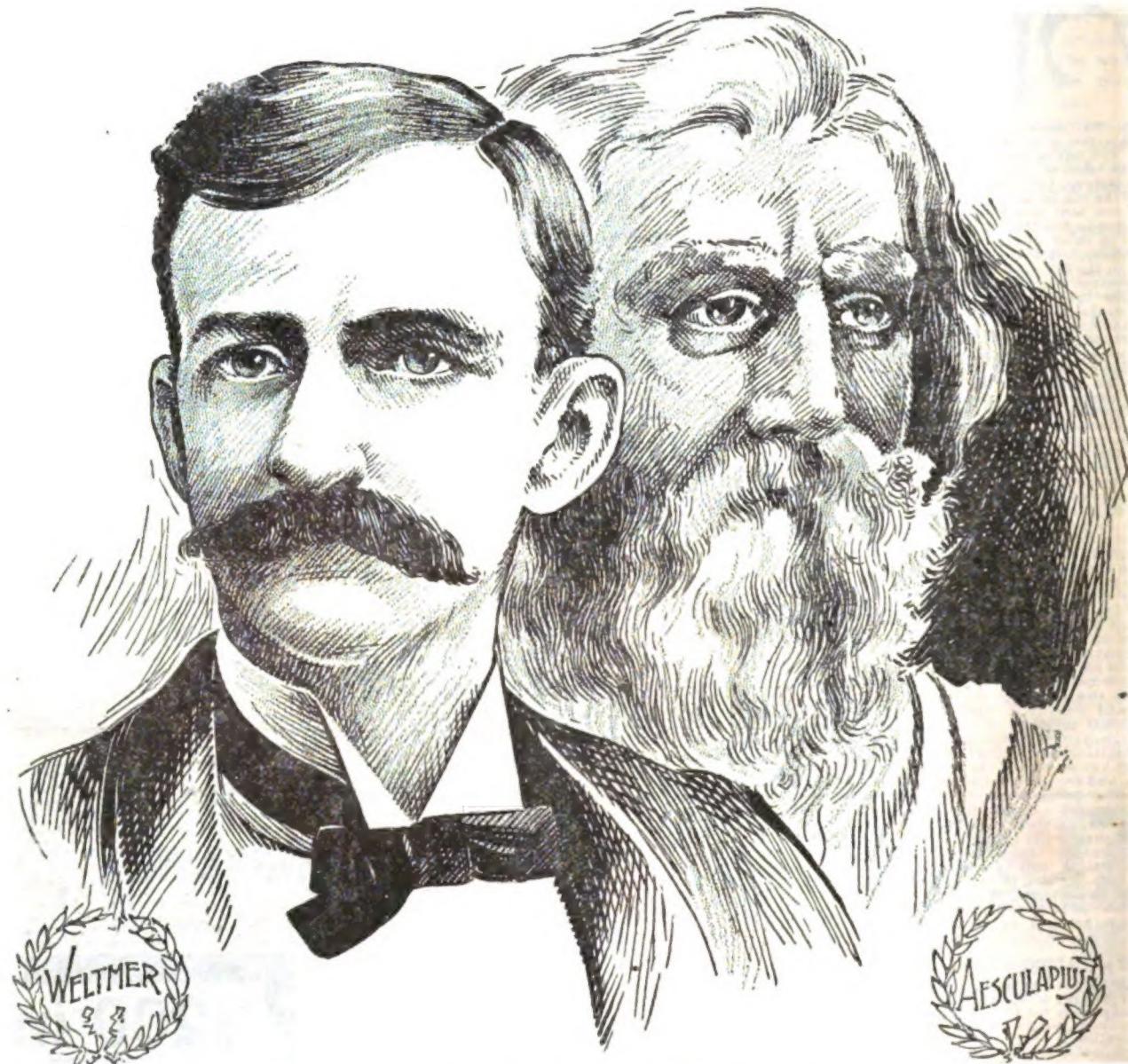
By the Absent Method Weltmerism Annihilates Space and Makes it Unnecessary To Go To Nevada for Treatment.

THIS WONDERFUL DISCOVERY REVEALED TO ALL.

The phenomenal cures made by Prof. S. A. Weltmer of Nevada, Mo., have been so astounding and wonderful as to attract the attention of scientists and physicians throughout the world. An eminent physician who has won the esteem of the medical profession by his history of Aesculapius, the healing god, known in B. C. 292, says: While it is true that we are told that Aesculapius became so efficient in the healing art that he actually succeeded so far as to restore the dead to life, and in this way offended Pluto who complained to Jove of the innovation and Jove slew Aesculapius by a flash of lightning, still in making my researches up to the present day, I can say without hesitation that Prof. S. A. Weltmer, the great Nevada, Mo., Scientist, who originated the Method of Magnetic Healing, known as Weltmerism, has done more for science and humanity than did Aesculapius, for this wonderful man has followed the precept of the Living Christ. In this I do not mean to be sacrilegious but to emphasize my statement by saying that the Great Nevada (Mo.) Scientist is following in the path made by Him who was born at Bethlehem, and healing without drugs or the surgeon's knife. Again, Prof. S. A. Weltmer is more generous to humanity than was Aesculapius, for the latter had a few followers, known as the Asclepiades, who were bound by an oath not to divulge the secret of the healing art, while any one placing themselves in communication with Prof. S. A. Weltmer can receive instructions from him, for he is most anxious to teach his art to others, that the great method, of which he is the founder, may live and continue to bring the afflicted to health and happiness, even after he has passed to the great majority. Weltmerism has been so perfected that in its wide scope it reaches all classes of people, for this wonderful curative power annihilates space and cures patients at a distance just as readily as it does those who go to Nevada for treatment. Thousands of testimonials from worthy people in every walk of life, are in possession of the American School of Magnetic Healing of Nevada, Mo., and the seeming miracles performed by this great scientist are so wonderful that they would be doubted by the skeptical ones if the proofs were not so positive. Through the courtesy of Prof. J. H. Kelly, the eminent co-laborer of Prof. Weltmer, we are permitted to publish a few of the thousands of testimonials in his possession:

Mrs. Lucy A. Shook, wife of Rev. H. C. Shook, Minister of the M. E. Church, Bucklin, Mo., suffered for five years with constipation, indigestion and poor circulation. She was under the constant treatment of medical doctors, but continued to grow worse, until finally she decided to go to Nevada, Mo., for treatment. One physician, with fifty years' practice, told her she would never reach the Weltmer Institute alive. Her husband strongly opposed her taking the Weltmer Treatment, as he had no faith in it, but finally consented as he did not want to oppose his wife's wishes longer, as he believed her a dying woman. Mrs. Shook was brought to the Weltmer Institute on a stretcher; she took six treatments and is now a well woman. Rev. Shook left Nevada with his wife most enthusiastic over her cure and is now firm believer of Weltmerism.

Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer.



Mr. John S. Small, Colfax, Ill., was deaf in his left ear for seven years; could not hear a watch tick when placed against this ear. Was permanently cured in three days by Prof. Weltmer. Mr. L. W. Rains, a wealthy lumberman of Hornbeak, Tenn., suffered constantly with kidney trouble for twenty years; also with constipation and prostatic troubles. Exhausted the best medical skill, but to no relief. He fortunately heard of Prof. Weltmer, and was soon restored to perfect health, and now says this treatment will cure anybody. Mrs. M. E. Hawkins, Louisburg, Kan., was afflicted twenty years with prolapsus and enlargement of the womb, indigestion and perpetual headache. Tried everything that offered relief and gave up in despair. Heard of Prof. Weltmer, took his treatment one week and was permanently restored to health.

Prof. Weltmer also possesses the remarkable ability to cure people at a distance, and hundreds have been restored in this way. Mr. G. W. Hightower, Tiff City, Mo., was a total wreck, having suffered many years with stomach, liver and kindred troubles. Tried every-

thing without relief. Fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method.

Mrs. Minnie Porter, Texarkana, Tex., was afflicted for eighteen months with kidney and other diseases, and for twelve months unable to get out of her bed. Was expected to die at any time. Permanently cured by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method and has gained sixty-five pounds.

Mrs. Lavisa Dudley, Barry, Ill., suffered for thirty years with neuralgia and stomach troubles. Nothing but morphine would relieve her. Permanently cured in a few weeks by the Absent Method of Treatment.

Mrs. M. A. Devault, Defiance, O., was afflicted five years with dropsy, stomach and kidney troubles. Could get no relief from medical science. Was fully restored by Absent Treatment in ten days.

Mrs. M. M. Walker, Poca, W. Va., suffered with eczema, indigestion and female troubles. Dozens of doctors failed to give any relief. She was permanently restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method in two months.

Mrs. Jennie L. Linch, Lakeview, Mo., was

for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles and general debility; was reduced to a mere skeleton. After taking gallons of obnoxious medicines without relief, she tried the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than thirty days she was entirely relieved and gained fifteen pounds.

The Weltmer Method has cured thousands of helpless invalids. In fact, the cures have been so marvelous it can be said there is no disease known that it will not reach. The Absent Method by curing at a distance makes it possible for Prof. Weltmer to benefit all classes of people. There can be but one logical reason given for the grand work done by Weltmerism and that is, it has a greater grasp upon scientific truth than any other method known to mankind.

Any of the readers of the COMFORT writing to Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., will receive free of charge the MAGNETIC JOURNAL, a 40-page illustrated magazine and a list of remarkable cures positively proving the wonderful power of this method over all diseases.



PROF. J. H. KELLY.
Secretary American School of Magnetic Healing.

LEARN THIS NOBLE PROFESSION.

The American School of Magnetic Healing is organized under the laws of the State of Missouri, and is a chartered institute founded for the purpose of teaching the new method of Magnetic Healing, known as Weltmerism. Prof. Weltmer is the president and Prof. Kelly the secretary and treasurer of this school. The method perfected by the American School of Magnetic Healing is so complete in all its details that the students become as efficient as Prof. Weltmer himself in this art to cure in ten days. This noble profession, which is taught either by mail or personal instruction, by its application cures and benefits the delicate and nervous woman of all the ailments known to woman; the overworked man, whose very manhood and vigor are lost by exertions and indiscretions; the sickly child; in fact it reaches all diseases known to the human frame and gives the possessor of this wonderful art a power that never was held by man until Weltmerism became a fact. You can become perfect in Magnetic Healing; no argument can be put forth to the contrary. It is a power born in every human, just like the faculty of speech, and only needs to be brought to the surface. The hundreds of successful students of the American School of Magnetic Healing, who are now healing the sick in every portion of the country, are positive proof that any one who desires can learn this profession, and any one who learns can practice it. There is no nobler or better paying profession. Prof. Weltmer finds it impossible to attend to the

enormous demands made upon him to cure; he therefore wishes others to take up his profession, so that he may call upon them to assist him in his noble work. He also wishes to perpetuate Weltmerism, as he is positive that in the near future it will revolutionize the art to cure. He also knows the only way to perpetuate it and make Weltmerism the standard for all times to come is to teach his profession to others.

The following letter is one of the many in the possession of the American School of Magnetic Healing.

Dear Sir:—Your mail course in Magnetic Healing was received some months ago. After reading some, I caught your idea and at once proceeded to put it into practice, and found I could accomplish all and even more than I anticipated. I have never failed to get immediate results in all cases treated, and I have made a number of cures in cases that have been given up by the best of our physicians as incurable. I expect to devote my entire time to this work, but should I never use it outside of myself or family, would consider it the best investment I ever made.

J. T. IGLEHART, Meridian, Miss.

Thousands of letters in possession of Prof. Kelly, the secretary, are abundant proof that any one can learn this grand profession in ten days. For full instructions free, address

PROF. J. H. KELLY, Sec'y., Nevada, Mo.